

HOME NEWS

Police take 10% pay rise but firemen's claim is unresolved

By Donald Macintyre
Labour Staff

As policemen's representatives accepted the Government's 10 per cent pay offer, talks to settle claims by firemen and farm workers failed to reach agreement yesterday.

Last night the Home Secretary joined union leaders and local authority negotiators in discussions on the firemen's 30 per cent pay claim.

The talks failed to reach a settlement, and further discussions were arranged for Thursday.

At yesterday's meeting local authority employers and Fire Brigades Union officials warned Mr Rees that there would be a serious threat to public safety if negotiations on firemen's pay break down there.

The employers' side of the National Joint Council for Fire Brigades had offered the union a 10 per cent increase within the government guidelines, coupled with continuing discussions on firemen's pay, relative to other groups. The union's 30 per cent claim would take the basic gross pay of a qualified fireman to £35.71.

Both the employers and the union, which is under pressure to avert a strike unless the pay demands are met, took the unusual step of adjourning the talks to visit the Home Office to warn Mr Rees of the danger of a breakdown in negotiations.

The 10 per cent offer to the police is to be recommended by the Police Federation to its 104,000 members in England and Wales, the federation decided yesterday.

The decision, which was followed by the leaders of Scottish and Northern Ireland police officers, means that the force will receive 10 per cent from September 1, subject to further negotiations on how the money should be paid.

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the federation, said it expected that the independent review into police pay would suggest rises of between 78 per cent and 104 per cent.

The federation has told Mr Rees that it expects the review's findings to result in a fresh pay increase within the present wages round.

The Government has not yet committed itself to such a proposal, unless the police are treated as a special case, would contravene the rule that 12 months must elapse between pay settlements.

Talks at the Agricultural Wages Board aimed at achieving acceptable new pay rates for farm workers broke up in despair last night. The board will meet again on Friday to try to resolve the issue.

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Liberal call for four more Ulster MPs

By Our Political Correspondent

The injustice of Northern Ireland's under-representation in Parliament at Westminster must be rectified as quickly as possible, the Liberal Party states in its submission to the Speaker's Conference considering that question.

Mr Clement Freud, MP for the Isle of Ely and the party's spokesman on Northern Ireland, and Mr Michael Stead, president-elect of the party, yesterday called for four more seats for the region. Northern Ireland's share of the total Westminster electorate entitles it to exactly 16 seats instead of the present 12. But the Liberals' proposition is likely to run into trouble.

They propose that there should be a new long-member constituency, covering the whole of Northern Ireland, with an election on the single transferable vote system of proportional representation.

That would be open to the criticism that for the present Parliament, at least, the electors of Northern Ireland would be having a second vote. It would also be seen as a first move leading to the adoption of proportional representation for the whole of the United Kingdom, a Liberal objective that has long been opposed by the two other main parties.

The people of Northern Ireland are used to the single transferable vote system, which is much fairer and more suitable to political conditions than first-past-the-post, they say. Within a few weeks of the new law being passed, a by-election should be held for the four new seats. Northern Ireland could have its fair share of seats at Westminster within six months.

This would depend on the Speaker's Conference reporting quickly, and on the Government's support for legislation. In the present parliamentary situation it is not likely to be forthcoming.

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Army says soldiers' living conditions in Belfast are being improved gradually

From Annabel Ferriman
Belfast

Army living conditions in Northern Ireland are comparable to some of the worst prisoner-of-war camps in the last war, Mr Airey Neave, opposition spokesman on Northern Ireland, said yesterday.

He is seeking a meeting this week with Mr Mason, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, and Mr Mulley, Secretary of State for Defence, to demand more accommodation to relieve overcrowding.

"They have got to spend more money. The worst problem is overcrowding and the claustrophobic quarters. It is necessary to enlarge the space per man," he said.

Mr Neave's remarks came after recent complaints of serious congestion and sub-standard accommodation. Army conditions in Belfast vary from spacious to squalid. The luckiest soldiers are billeted in the Grand Central Hotel, which, despite torn linoleum and peeling paintwork, retains the large rooms and wide staircases of its elegant past.

The hotel was taken over by the Army in 1972 and 17 regiments have so far enjoyed such luxuries as a sauna bath, a gymnasium and squash courts. Each bedroom has a wash basin, and some have private bathrooms.

In contrast, a crumbling Methodist mission hall and a converted public house provide cramped and dark quarters for about sixty soldiers of 47 Field Regiment, Royal Artillery, in the Markets district. Men are crammed up in triple bunks, 12 to a room measuring 15ft by 12ft in the former public house, while 30 sleep in the draughty mission hall. Beds are only two or three feet apart, allowing little room for personal belongings and not much peace when trying to sleep.

Battery Sergeant Major Paul Miller said the worst aspect was the lack of privacy. "I should like to sit down somewhere quiet occasionally as everybody does, but you just cannot do it. People get on each other's nerves living on top of each other."

Cold and contagious diseases are another worry, and strict rules of hygiene have to be observed to prevent their spread. One soldier with a cold had to be sent on outdoor duty to ensure that it did not go round the whole battery.

Because of the mission hall's size it has to be cleaned every day. Only four lavatories and four showers are provided for the 60 men, and there is only one pay telephone for the 30 soldiers in the mission.

For such hours a lance bombardier in the battery, married with three children, earns just over £40, from which he has to pay £9.50 a week rent for his army accommodation at Colchester.

Pay levels were producing a high attrition rate and a young army, because many of the experienced men were leaving, Sergeant Major Miller said. "The Army said yesterday: 'It is quite true that some accommodation is bad, but only about 400 to 500 troops are in substandard accommodation.'"

"There is a programme for improving accommodation in Belfast and people have been moved out of the smaller bases, which were very bad. We are very lucky in Northern Ireland because, almost without exception, we have got what we asked for in the way of money for accommodation or equipment from the Government. Where we can spend money to improve things we are doing so."

The judge said it seemed to him that Mr Bevan had been giving a lead to people at the meeting in a way in which he should not have done. If the order served on him had not been defective because it did not include a warning that he could be jailed for defying it, he said. Yesterday he rejected a second allegation, that Mr Bevan had incited others to break the order to do so.

Since the hearing began four days ago, communal proceedings against three other defendants have been dismissed and the action against a fourth dropped. The case against two more is proceeding.

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The Methodist mission hall that serves as a barracks in Belfast.

List of buildings for disabled

A national register of buildings designed or adapted for disabled people is to be established by the Centre on Environment for the Handicapped (four Social Services Correspondent writes). The register is intended to be used by architects and planners. The centre, which seeks information about all kinds of buildings, expects to complete its survey in 1979.

Hospital ward picketed

Pickets outside Whittingham Hospital, Preston, yesterday advised a close observation ward after an attack on a night nurse. The unions, which say wards are understaffed, are demanding the removal from the hospital of a patient involved in an attack on Mr Thomas Read in the observation unit last month. Management members are caring for patients in the unit.

Outdated attitudes by authorities blamed for discord over nuclear power

From Pearce Wright
Science Editor
Whitehaven

A parallel was drawn at the Windscale inquiry yesterday between the growing dissatisfaction of the public over tower blocks of flats and the proposals to build a new plant for re-processing waste nuclear fuel.

Presenting the final submission for the Political Ecology Research Group, Mr Peter Taylor suggested the present plan was seen by the developers as satisfying a particular need, but the end the public could turn against it because it offended their most fundamental needs.

Mr Taylor said that somewhere at the front of the mind of the public could turn against it because it offended their most fundamental needs. "Over my dead body you go or turn back," Unpalatable as that might be, it was a fact of life. In Europe already, said a teacher, had been killed because those behind could not hear to look back. "We in Britain at least, are not being pushed quite so hard."

Mr Taylor argued that much of the difficulty in the nuclear power debate lay in outdated attitudes and philosophies of British Nuclear Fuels' management and the authorities and controlling authorities with responsibilities for public health and safety, such as the National Radiological Protection Board and the Nuclear Installations Inspectorate.

The difficulty, in his opinion, arose because Windscale grew from a requirement for defence purposes. The building of plants for reprocessing commercial nuclear wastes was an extension of those philosophies in design.

He believed that waste materials, particularly plutonium, should be handled rather than discarded, and expressed confidence in the design ability of British Nuclear Fuels to provide a safe and secure plant for reprocessing.

The philosophy of the Windscale plant, he said, was to be out of touch with modern environmental awareness. Indeed, more than that, there was a suspicion that whoever made those decisions realized that such an awareness existed but could not understand it, and indeed had no respect for it.

He felt that that disregard for public concern was not just a feature of British Nuclear Fuels, but one of the reasons why the controlling bodies failed to act in the way he wished.

The evolution of the nuclear industry had been such that managerial staff had moved on to the controlling bodies of national and international organizations. Thus they sat with other groups of experts and defined the codes of practice in which they helped to set the terms of reference for their old company to judge itself.

On the National Radiological Protection Board, he said, the scientific expertise within the organization was inadequate. "The board is not a scientific body, it is a management body," he said. "It is not a scientific body, it is a management body," he said. "It is not a scientific body, it is a management body," he said.

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Man accused of bank murder tried to hang himself, jury is told

Michael John Hart, accused of murdering Angela Wooliscroft, aged 20, a bank clerk, tried to hang himself before he eventually confessed to the killing, it was alleged at the Central Criminal Court yesterday.

Mr Michael Corkery, for the prosecution, said Mr Hart's attempt, in a police cell, failed. The police revived him, and a few days later he had told them: "I did shoot the girl. It was an accident."

Mr Hart had said that he tried to commit suicide "because of the murder, and because of the wife and kids". Mr Corkery alleged that Mr Hart, carrying a sawn-off double-barrel shotgun, shot Miss Wooliscroft at point-blank range after she had handed over £2,000 at a branch of Barclays Bank at Ham, near Richmond upon Thames, on November 10 last year.

Mr Hart, aged 38, formerly of St Peter's Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire, had pleaded guilty to murder. His plea of guilty to manslaughter was not accepted by the prosecution.

Mr Corkery said Mr Hart had outlined to the police how he had gone into the bank with the loaded shotgun under his coat. Before going in he had put on a black wig to make himself look like a Pakistani. At the counter he demanded money.

He had said that the girl seemed "ages and ages" and had added: "I knocked the glass partition and said 'Hurry up.' The money dropped into the tray and the gun went off."

He was said to have added: "I knew I hit the girl because she screamed. I just hoped she was wounded." In a statement later he was alleged to have said he hoped to break the glass. "The gun went off as the girl raised her head. She screamed. I had no intention of shooting anyone."

"When I came back to my senses I realised there was money in the tray. I picked it

up, walked out of the bank and back to the car."

Mr Corkery told the jury that the Crown maintained that the shooting was deliberate. The gun had been deliberately loaded and cocked; the logical consequence was that it was deliberately fired.

Mr Corkery said that six days before the shooting Thomas Turner and Sons, a gunsmith, of Whitley Street, Reading, was broken into and a 12-bore shotgun, a 22 pistol and a 32 revolver were stolen.

Mr Hart sawed off the ends of both barrels of the shotgun and then drove to Kingston in a Mini car borrowed from a garage, where his own car was being repaired. In the car park of Bentalls store he took an A40 car, which had been parked there earlier by a woman. He decided to use a mackintosh and a pair of sun glasses, which had been left in her car.

Counsel said that when Mr Hart entered Barclays bank he was wearing sun glasses and a wig, and his features were darkened. When the shotgun was fired, it blasted the five-eighths inch thick glass partition, particles of which went into Miss Wooliscroft's body. She also had pellets in her chest.

Mr Corkery said that on January 23 Mr Hart asked the police to send for his wife and brother-in-law. He was alleged to have said: "I did shoot the girl. It was an accident."

When his wife arrived Mr Hart caught hold of her hands and said: "It was an accident. I am sorry about the publicity. I don't like it."

Ms Doreen Doggett, a bank clerk, said she saw Miss Wooliscroft fall. She added: "She seemed to slide down the stairs. I saw a man standing on the other side of the counter. He was shouting. I saw the hole in the glass. I realised it was a shot. I ran back to my senses. I realised there was money in the tray. I picked it

up. The trial continues today.

Couple on 13 charges after car siege

A man and a girl appeared in private before Sheriff John Christie in Dundee yesterday to face 13 charges after a car siege in the city on Friday night. The charges included assaulting the Chief Constable of Tayside.

Mr David Smith, procurator fiscal, said later in a prepared statement that George McTaggart Morrison was charged alone with four offences of theft by housebreaking, a contravention of the Firearms Act,

1968, reckless discharge of a firearm, and malicious damage. Both Mr Morrison and Elizabeth Ann Green were charged with assault and robbery and five charges of assault. No details were given for the defendants.

Mr Smith said that in certain of the assault charges the victims were Lee Pascoe and June Pascoe, and in other charges the victim was John Little, Chief Constable of Tayside, and Det Sergeant James McIlroy and Det Constable Hans Miller.

Scottish rail and road links severed by storms

Many parts of Britain were badly affected yesterday by gales and floods, which closed road and rail routes and damaged property.

Scotland suffered particularly. All road links with England, except the east coast, were impassable for a time. The Glasgow to London rail route was closed because of damage to the electrical system near Lockerbie. It was not expected to reopen until this afternoon.

The alternative route through Kilmarnock was closed because of flooding, although it reopened later. All early morning trains to England were cancelled and later trains were diverted through Edinburgh and Newcastle upon Tyne.

After tannets on an estate at Bowhill, near Selkirk, had been cut off by flood water a helicopter was sent from the RAF station at Boulton, Northumberland, to take the tannets to safety.

Parts of Wales, Cumbria and the West Country were under water and most parts of the country were affected either by heavy storms or by gales. Many roads were brought down, blocking roads.

Coastguards reported a force 12 gale off the Lizard, Cornwall, and a gust of 70 knots at the Needles, Isle of Wight. Llorries were diverted from many roads because of high winds, and 40 mph speed limits were imposed.

In the east, trees were torn from buildings at Brighton, Hastings and Eastbourne, and some shop windows were blown in. High seas damaged beach huts. Early ferry services between the Isle of Wight and the mainland were delayed.

In Cumbria a landslide blocked the railway line between Workington and Whitehaven. The centre of the storm was Keswick, where 5.2 inches of rain fell in 24 hours.

The Greta overflowed its banks and the lakes of Benthwaite and Derwentwater were virtually linked. Keswick Grammar School had to be closed because of flooding.

In North Wales the village of Llanberis at the foot of Snowdon was badly affected. Forty homes and shops were flooded when streams overflowed. A Russian seaman is believed to have drowned in Falmouth harbour after being washed overboard during a storm on Sunday night. He was the mate of the Soviet tug *Agat*, which was standing by a Soviet floating dock in harbour for repairs.

During the storm the flooding dock broke partly free from its moorings and drifted in, leaving the man washed overboard during manoeuvres to secure it.

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Mr Hoyle, Minister of State for Health, visited a training centre and social club for his constituency of Leishman, London, last night to take part

Hospital's subnormal patients were dirty and poorly clothed, suspended consultant says

By a Staff Reporter
Subnormal patients at Normansfield Hospital, Teddington, were dirty, smelly and poorly clothed, a public inquiry in London yesterday was told by Dr Terence Lawlor, the consultant in charge.

He was suspended from his post as consultant psychiatrist in subnormality at Normansfield in May last year after staff unrest. Dr Lawlor was giving evidence at the inquiry set up by Mr Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services.

Dr Lawlor, aged 53, of Wimbledon, said he was appointed to Normansfield in December 1976. He was examined by Mr Philip Oron, QC, for the Treasury Solicitor. Dr Lawlor agreed that by the time he was suspended six senior staff members had left.

While he was at Normansfield there was a gradual deterioration in the relationship with sections of the nursing staff. They complained about his attitude, and he about their competence.

Some senior nurses circulated a petition about his attitude. Dr Lawlor said that although they were part of the hospital's

management process they would seek the support of their trade union the Confederation of Health Service Employees (Cohse).

Mr Oron: "They did so because they believed that without resorting to their trade union they could not expect to gain any improvement or change in your basic attitude?"

Dr Lawlor: "The general thrust of the nursing officers' complaint was that they wanted to act more autonomously and have a far greater say, almost a complete say, in taking patients out of the hospital on various trips without medical clearance."

Dr Lawlor said an unofficial strike by Cohse members had resulted in his suspension. It was true, he said, that he was the first consultant to be suspended because of a union's activity, and he would not be the last.

Dr Lawlor said that during the strike he was consulting psychiatrist the hospital had acquired a bad name in certain quarters and a good one in others. He was not aware of its being a bad name in the profession of psychiatry.

Mr Oron asked Dr Lawlor

if he admitted that Normansfield had had its back broken and whether he acknowledged any responsibility for that state of affairs. Dr Lawlor replied: "Yes, I do. My long-term strategy was sound, but the immediate tactics I adopted were not."

He had decided to tread warily at first and be very going by letting people find their way themselves. Dr Lawlor was asked if in his relationship with other people inside the hospital he contributed in any way to the breakdown of the hospital.

He replied: "I think that conflict that occurred between me and other medical and paramedical staff and, to a lesser extent, the administrative staff cannot be attributed to personality clashes; the term which is thrown about. It can be attributed to the fact that people's respective positions were not made clear when I first went to Normansfield."

He denied that he had alienated people who were keen to contribute to the well-being of patients.

Mr Oron said evidence had been given that conditions for Normansfield patients were

worse than those for black Africans in hospitals for the mentally handicapped in Rhodesia in the 1960s. "Have you ever known such a staggering indictment to be made of any other psychiatric hospital in your experience?"

Dr Lawlor replied: "It would be staggering if it were correct."

Mr Oron said it had been said that during Dr Lawlor's tenure of office conditions at Normansfield were such that it was as if Dickens had come alive again in the 1970s.

Dr Lawlor: "I put that remark in the same category as press reports which described Normansfield as a 'workhouse'."

He agreed that people had told the inquiry that Normansfield was a dirty hospital with filthy wards. Patients had been described as dirty, smelly and with teeth in a fearful state of decay. There were other allegations that patients were clothed in an undignified manner.

Dr Lawlor said that was not the picture he saw. But he agreed that it was a fair description by the time he left.

The inquiry continues today.

In brief

Man's bail raised to £100,000

Levis Altman, a London stockbroker, accused with others of currency offences involving the transfer of 300,000 shares in Peasey Properties, had his bail increased at Guildhall Justice-Rooms yesterday by £25,000 to £100,000.

Mr Altman, aged 59, of Wilton Road, Bournemouth, Kent, and Robert Carnes, aged 31, of Jameson Street, Kensington, London, together with Lewis Altman & Co, Tricomon Ltd, and IIC Eurosecurities Ltd, whose managing director, Eric David Kohn, was named in the charges, is said to be abroad, are all on trial summarily and has pleaded not guilty.

The hearing continues on January 23.

Life sentence soldier cleared

A young soldier jailed for life for murder after rivalry between two Scottish regiments had erupted into violence outside a German beer hall was cleared by the Court of Appeal yesterday.

Private William Leslie Porter, aged 19, of the 1st Battalion, The Queen's Own Highlanders, who was convicted at a court martial at Munster, West Germany, on September 17 last year of murdering an Argentinian soldier, Highlander, had his conviction quashed and sentence set aside.

Man sees killing of daughter

Mr John Baker, aged 82, of Berengrave Lane, Rainham, Kent, was forced to sit in a chair while intruders beat his daughter to death on Sunday night. It was disclosed yesterday that Kent police launched a hunt for the two masked raiders.

The men burst through the back door of the house and forced Mr Baker into a chair. He was made to watch as his daughter Miss Violet Baker, aged 38, was viciously attacked. Nothing is believed to have been taken.

Broadmoor for knife attacker

Raymond McKenzie Anderson, of Norbrook Street, Peckham, London, was committed at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to Broadmoor after pleading guilty on the ground of diminished responsibility to the manslaughter of Mr Harry Hobbs, aged 75, and the malicious wounding of three other people.

The court was told that after his mental condition deteriorated he bought two flick knives, which he carried about the 10-inch blades because, he said afterwards, he "wanted to leave scars". He went into the streets of Peckham with a knife in each hand.

Motorway ruling later

Judgment was reserved in the High Court yesterday in a move to quash the decision of the Secretary of State for the Environment giving permission for the proposed M40 and M42 motorway proposals on the outskirts of Birmingham.

Mr Desmond Wilcox, Mrs Patricia Rosemary Wilcox, wife of Mr Desmond Wilcox, a BBC executive, of Mr Charles Ray, their counsel, told Mr Justice O'Connor that they had brought the action to "clear their names of a series of nasty insinuations".

Damages for Lord Foot

Lord Foot, chairman of the United Kingdom Immigrant Advisory Service, and Mr John Ennals, its full-time director, secured undisclosed damages and costs yesterday in settlement of a High Court libel action against *Private Eye*, the satirical magazine.

Mr Charles Ray, their counsel, told Mr Justice O'Connor that they had brought the action to "clear their names of a series of nasty insinuations".

Crossman diaries reflect royal love of wrestling

By Alan Hamilton
One of the Queen's favourite sports is all-in wrestling, the Prime Minister told Mr Crossman. "So weak that as Chancellor he used to weep on my shoulder and then go away and intrigue against me."

Mr Crossman's own view of the future leader of the party is kinder; in 1963 he wrote that Mr Callaghan, Mrs Castle and Sir Harold were the only people of any stature in the Cabinet. Although exhausted and nearly physically broken by his term as Chancellor, Mr Callaghan recovered to make an outstanding job of the Home Office, praising himself as a plain-style man.

"Do you want a royal charter for them?" Mr Crossman inquired. "No, not yet," the Queen replied.

Mr Crossman, over the *Private Eye* and self-confessed republican, later admitted that he and the Queen were uncomfortable in one another's company, as were the other leading Cabinet republicans, Mrs Barbara Castle and Mr Roy Jenkins. Not so Sir Harold Wilson.

"He is a steady loyalist and, roughly speaking, it is true that he is the professional classmate who sees by and large staunchly republican," Mr Crossman wrote.

Two of the working-class loyalists of the time were Mr Callaghan and Mr Fred (now Lord) Peart.

But the Prime Minister of the day apparently did not have the same unqualified admiration for the man who was destined to succeed him. In May, 1968, after Mr Callaghan had made a particularly forward speech to the firemen's union, Sir Harold confided to the diarist: "That fellow's getting above himself. We must teach him a lesson."

Some months later Sir Callaghan was plotting against him to create a position favourable to his succession to the leadership. "He is inordinately

ambitious and inordinately vain," the Prime Minister told Mr Crossman. "So weak that as Chancellor he used to weep on my shoulder and then go away and intrigue against me."

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Extension of adoption phone-in plan

By Our Social Services Correspondent
An experimental adoption "phone-in" counselling service has proved so successful that it is being extended to cover nine new areas from Greater London to the Isle of Wight.

The service, managed by several children's charities, offers free and confidential advice to people unwilling to approach formal agencies such as local authorities or adoption societies.

The first two adoption "phone-in" services began 18 months ago in Surrey and Sussex. Other schemes opened up last year in the counties of the Thames, in the South-west, the Midlands and the North-east. All have been used continually by people anxious to know about adoption services, particularly since the Children Act, 1975, has changed the law.

The service is being extended from today to cover Greater London, Essex, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Shropshire, Hampshire, the Isle of Wight, Surrey, Kent, East and West Sussex. The telephone will be manned five hours a day every weekday, and posters advertising the service will be displayed in clinics, doctors' surgeries, libraries, town halls and senior schools.

in the activities of mentally handicapped people. Today Mr Denning is due to examine on his round a milkman who keeps watch on elderly and disabled people.

Mr Morris, Under-Secretary of State for the Disabled, is due to examine a milkman who keeps watch on elderly and disabled people. Mr Morris, Minister of State for Health, visited a training centre and social club for his constituency of Leishman, London, last night to take part

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Bill will help access right of grandparents

By Penny Symon
Almost the first case with which Mr Robert Rhodes James had to deal after being elected Conservative MP for Cambridge last December was that of a young boy who had been denied access to his grandchildren, whose parents had been killed.

Apart from a wardship application to the High Court, which was far beyond their means and unlikely to succeed, they had no legal remedy. Mr Rhodes James saw that he had found a serious deficiency in family law that is a source of deep human anguish.

His Guardianship (Amendment) Bill, which he introduced into the Commons in July, would enable grandparents to apply to a magistrate or county court for such access. The court's paramount concern would be the child's well-being.

Mr Rhodes James said yesterday that he should be a major revision of family law and the establishment of specialized courts. I appreciate the strength of the argument, but that is beyond the purposes of my Bill.

It is possible that the Government will amend the Guardianship of Minors Act, 1971, and 1973 along the lines of Mr Rhodes James' Bill. If that is not possible, he says he will reintroduce the Bill at the next session.

It could also happen when

Move to close loophole in law on choice of school

By Diana Geddes
Education Correspondent
A loophole in the law is giving some parents an unfair advantage in choice of school, the education committee of the Association of County Councils says in a report to be presented to the association's executive committee tomorrow.

Several county councils have reported to the association cases of parents who, having refused to take up a place at a school allocated to them, have appealed unsuccessfully under section 68 of the 1944 Education Act to the Secretary of State to intervene on their behalf, but then succeeded in getting the school of their choice through the Secretary of State's intervention under section 37.

Section 68 enables the Secretary of State on receiving a complaint to direct a local education authority in the performance of its duties where he or she is satisfied that the authority or the school governing body have acted in a way which is unreasonable. Parents' complaints that their child is being sent to an inappropriate school do not often satisfy the requirement of unreasonableness by the local authority. But if the parent then refuses to send his child to the school allocated to him, the local authority may, under section 37, serve a school attendance order, but must give the parent an opportunity of selecting the school.

If the authority feels that the school chosen is unsuitable, or would involve unreasonable expense, it may apply to the Secretary of State for a direction determining what school is to be named.

In several cases the Secretary of State has directed that the school named in the order must be that originally requested by the parent. That gives those parents an unfair advantage, the association's education committee says.

The association's executive committee is expected to ratify the education committee's call for amending legislation. Mrs Williams, Secretary of State for Education, is known to be sympathetic to that proposal.

Regional report

John Chartres Newcastle upon Tyne

Cumbria has been paying £27,000 a year to the NEDC and £5,000 a year as a member of the North-east Development Council. Association of Cumbria councillors often say that they "get nothing out of" the NEDC.

Councillor George Fishburn, the Labour leader of Durham, was also reported recently as saying that he would pull out of NEDC "tomorrow", but emphasized that that was his personal view and not that of the council.

Lord Ridley said the new body and the NEDC could be complementary, although he thought the NEDC's role should be redefined, with less involvement in politics and a bigger concentration on promotion.

Mr John Hobbs, aged 37, a former journalist and director of the NEDC, whose operational style has been criticized by the old guard of politicians in the North-east, said he did not see any serious threat to the development council, although Cumbria's withdrawal would be regretted. He thought

the formation of the new body and probable withdrawal of Cumbria has posed questions about the future of the North of England Development Council, which spends more than £400,000 a year promoting the region, with a £250,000 annual government grant and £200,000 subscribed by the five counties. Its chairman is Lord Glenamara, formerly Mr Edward Short.

With reference to new devolution proposals for Scotland and Wales, the Queen's speech on Thursday, local authorities in the North-east are forming a "political muscle" group to secure a fair deal for their area.

The move is accompanied by a realignment of loyalties in the North, with the county of Cumbria switching its sights towards the North-west rather than the North-east.

The overall situation is significant for the Government because opposition from many northern MPs to Scottish devolution was instrumental in defeating the Bill.

Leaders of three of the five northern region counties, Northumberland, Tyne and Wear and Durham, are supporting a proposed northern counties association to provide a powerful lobby for a high unemployment area which would siphon off an unfair share of government aid.

The support of Cumbria and Cleveland, the other two counties that make up the Government's definition of the northern region, is less likely. Cumbria with almost certainly stay out. The county council is poised already to withdraw from the half government-financed North of England Development Council later this month and is setting up its own industrial development organization.

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WEST EUROPE

French police looking with envy at the resources enjoyed by their West German counterparts

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Oct 31

Police in Versailles today took in a man they believe is the last of three safebreakers whose attempt on the station at Fontenay-le-Fleury, Yvelines, last Friday led to police gunfire in which one police officer was killed and another seriously wounded.

On the same day there were two other incidents in which French police officers were shot and wounded. At Toulouse, two police superintendents were hit while giving chase to a member of an armed gang they were rounding up. In Paris an inspector was hit during a rooftop gun fight with a gang trying to escape after a raid on a jeweller's shop.

These incidents have coincided with a campaign by one of the main police unions, the Syndicat Général de la Police, to draw attention to the undermanning and working conditions of the force.

The tragic incident at Fontenay could be a case in point. The police were called to the station where the safebreakers were at work. There was dense fog so they split into three groups and moved in on the station.

Suddenly there was a burst of fire that wounded one inspector. Believing it must have come from one of the safebreakers, a policeman opened up with his machine gun in the direction of the firing and killed another inspector.

It was found that the safebreakers, when they were arrested, were unarmed. Two of them were found to be convicted burglars out of prison on short leave passes.

The police superintendent's organization immediately protested that prison leave was too easy to obtain and often used by criminals to carry out other crimes.

But the other point was that the incident occurred because the police groups moving in on the station were inadequately equipped to keep in touch with each other. Moreover they were nervous because of the likelihood, as shown by the incidents in Paris and Toulouse, that the criminals they were stalking were armed.

French police searching for the kidnappers and murders of Dr Hannu-Martin Schleyer, the West German industrialist, have been nocking with envy the range of equipment and resources of their German counterparts.

The campaign by the police union has so far taken the form of a leaflet being pushed through two million letter boxes in the Paris area. It says that there are now fewer police on the beat than there were five years ago—for example there are only 21 on daytime duty in the Sixth Arrondissement compared to 24 in 1972.

In 15 out of 20 districts, members of the public have to be interviewed in the same room as prisoners and at least half of the police stations date from the first half of the last century. At Bobigny in Seine-St Denis, the police station is equipped with two 20-year-old typewriters and the motorised section comprises one car that has already done 100,000 miles and two mopeds.

M Jean Chausse, secretary of the union, says: "The quality of security is really the quality of the police". He is worried by the growth of private police forces, such as those that guard large stores and factories, and by "curious shooting clubs".

The union wants to see a stronger force, better equipped in more pleasant police stations and integrated into the town life.



Held in Hamburg, left: Hans-Jürgen Wilsdorf; held in London: Jürgen Petersen.

German held in London over kidnap

By Our Foreign Staff

Jürgen Petersen, a 25-year-old West German sought in connection with the kidnapping of a four-year-old boy in Hamburg last month, was detained in London on Sunday night by officers of Scotland Yard's extradition squad. He was found at a hotel in Craven Road, Bayswater.

At about the same time, the West German police in Hamburg arrested Hans-Jürgen Wilsdorf in connection with the kidnapping. Herr Wilsdorf,

who is 26, was detained at his divorced wife's flat.

The boy who was kidnapped on September 17, Felix Wessel, was the nephew of Ulrich Wessel, a terrorist killed when the West German Embassy in Stockholm was attacked in April, 1975. A ransom of £260,000 was paid for the boy's release.

The arrest in London came after Scotland Yard officers, helped by Inspector Peter Reichard, of the German police, had spent several days checking London hotels.

Herr Petersen booked into the Royal Eagle Hotel on Thursday afternoon under the name of Peter Jensen. According to hotel staff he "looked shabby", but nothing more was heard of him. "He was a quiet guest", one said.

Dutch kidnappers 'amateur criminals' police believe

Amsterdam, Oct 31.—The kidnappers of Mr Maurits Caransa, a wealthy Dutch property dealer, remained silent today despite an appeal from his family to make contact.

Police said there had been no response so far to the appeal yesterday through the Dutch news agency ANP.

"We have heard nothing from the kidnappers and still don't know where Mr Caransa is being held or by whom", police said.

Mr Caransa, aged 61, was bundled into a car soon after he left his bridge club in central Amsterdam early last Friday.

Telephone callers claiming to be members of the Baader-Meinhof Red Army group have said they were responsible, but police are treating it as a criminal rather than a political kidnapping.

A Government source said

that although a political motive was not being ruled out, the abduction was beginning to look like the work of "rather amateurish criminals".

Police denied a report in the Amsterdam daily *De Telegraaf* that they were concentrating their inquiries on groups of Yugoslavs living in Holland.

The paper also said the kidnappers escaped with their victim in a stolen red Fiat Polski car equipped with a 10-channel radio receiver and telephone.

Police confirmed that they were seeing a red Fiat stolen from a butcher at nearby Diemen who, as a volunteer fireman, had installed communication equipment in the car.

Mr Caransa, a Jew, escaped deportation to a concentration camp during the Nazi occupation of Holland by going into hiding.—Reuter, UPI and AP.

Historian to meet man said to be Hitler's son

Bonn, Oct 31.—Dr Werner Maser, a German historian who claims to have discovered a French son of Adolf Hitler, left his home in Speyer, in the Rhineland today to see again the man he maintains Hitler had fathered when he was a soldier in France in 1918.

He refused to disclose where the meeting was to take place.

The *Sunday Times*, which first published Dr Maser's claim, reported that the son, named Jean Lorret, lived "somewhere near the German border in northern France".

The West German newspaper *Bild Zeitung* said that he lived in St Quentin. The Paris newspaper *L'Aurore* said that he lives in Wavrin, near Lille.

Dr Maser's claim was greeted with interest but some scepticism in Germany. "Did Hitler have a son?", asked the *Essen* newspaper *Neue Ruhr Zeitung* on its front page.

The *Bild Zeitung* said: "Lorret has an incurable sickness and knows he must die." Mr Lorret's claim is also viewed sceptically by the population of Wavrin, where several

children were born of unknown fathers between 1917 and 1918. Another man, Mr Albert Leroy, a railwayman, was once believed locally to be Hitler's son because his mother had worked at the German army canteen—UPI and Agence France-Presse.



M Jean Lorret: Doubts about claim.

'Indian summer' traffic jams on French roads

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, Oct 31

Tempered by the fine weather of the lingering Indian summer, French families have flocked to the cities to spend the four-day All Saints' holiday in the countryside. Traffic leaving Paris over the weekend was 40 per cent higher than for the same period last year. An estimated five million people went away.

Getting out of the capital proved difficult with traffic on three-lane motorways taking up to three hours to cover the first 30 miles. Traffic jams were also bad in the provinces, especially south of Orleans and near Le Mans.

There was an early rush to the ski slopes round Tignes, Val Thorens and Deux Alpes, with queues forming for the lifts up to the runs at more than 6,000ft, where the snow was of very good quality. This early start means that skiers should expect this year a seven-month season.

Tomorrow families go traditionally to the cemetery to honour their dead. M Jacques Chirac, the Mayor of Paris, has set up a free bus service this year inside the city's huge cemeteries, to help the elderly. "Canary bison", the boy scout code name for advice given to motorists to avoid trouble, is suggesting that people should not try to make the journey back until Wednesday, if possible.

The road accident figures for the weekend are already heavy with 70 dead and injured so far. The likelihood is that the "canary bison" advice will be in vain.

Work is to resume on Wednesday. M Barre, the Prime Minister, is likely to call a "council of war" of senior ministers on that day to tackle the continuing problem of inflation. Cost of living figures announced on Friday show prices rising at the rate of 9.7 per cent over the year—0.2 per cent more than was pessimistically expected and 3 per cent more than the target figure set by M Barre when he introduced his plan a year ago.

The accelerating rise is largely due to food prices, which alone have risen by 14 per cent in the past year. No price freeze is expected, but it is likely that measures to reduce the cost of food distribution will be considered by M Barre's "council of war."

Three Poles fined over Amnesty petition

Warsaw, Oct 31.—Three Polish members of Amnesty International have been fined the equivalent of £33 each by a Warsaw court for collecting signatures for an Amnesty petition in a public place without permission, using abusive language, and creating a public disturbance.—Reuter.

French press Algeria to find hostages

From Our Own Correspondent
Paris, October 31

France has been increasing diplomatic pressure on Algeria to do more to secure the release of the French hostages held by the Polisario rebels in the Western Sahara. Yesterday President Giscard d'Estaing sent a personal message to President Boumediene through M Guy de Comminges, the French Ambassador to Algeria.

The ambassador spent more than an hour with the President explaining the message and seeking to convey the urgency felt in France over the affair. He made it clear that France would be reluctant to use its troops now on stand-by alert, to intervene in Mauritania, but underlined the need for more to be done in Algeria to locate and free the hostages.

The failure of the International Red Cross to make contact so far with any competent authority was mentioned, and President Boumediene was left in no doubt that there was a real danger of a deterioration in the relationship between the two countries.

Britain may cut more Scandinavian flights

By Arthur Reed
Air Correspondent

A dispute between Britain and Denmark over air services led to the cutting back of certain flights yesterday.

British Midland, the Derby-based independent airline, has been told by the Danes that it must open a new route to Copenhagen.

In reply, the British Government ruled that the Scandinavian airline SAS could not fly into Glasgow airport, but must use Prestwick instead, and that on its Copenhagen-Manchester-Birmingham route it could no longer pick up fare-paying passengers at Manchester for Dublin, nor at Dublin for Manchester.

It is unusual for such a dispute to reach the stage where air services are interfered with. Efforts to settle it can be expected at diplomatic level in both London and Copenhagen. The speculation in London last night was that the Government would be prepared to curtail services by SAS still further if the Danes did not allow the British airline to operate.

The British case rests on the fact that the service which British Midland wanted to start from Birmingham with the first flight due to leave yesterday, is allowed for in the air services agreement between Britain and Denmark.

British Midland received a licence to operate it from the Civil Aviation Authority in London two years ago and decided in September to put it into use. Approval from the Danish Government was expected to be a formality, and the airline went ahead with advertising and the opening of a sales office in Copenhagen.

Mr Michael Bishop, managing director of British Midland, said yesterday that they had spent about £30,000 on setting up the service and had already taken 100 bookings.

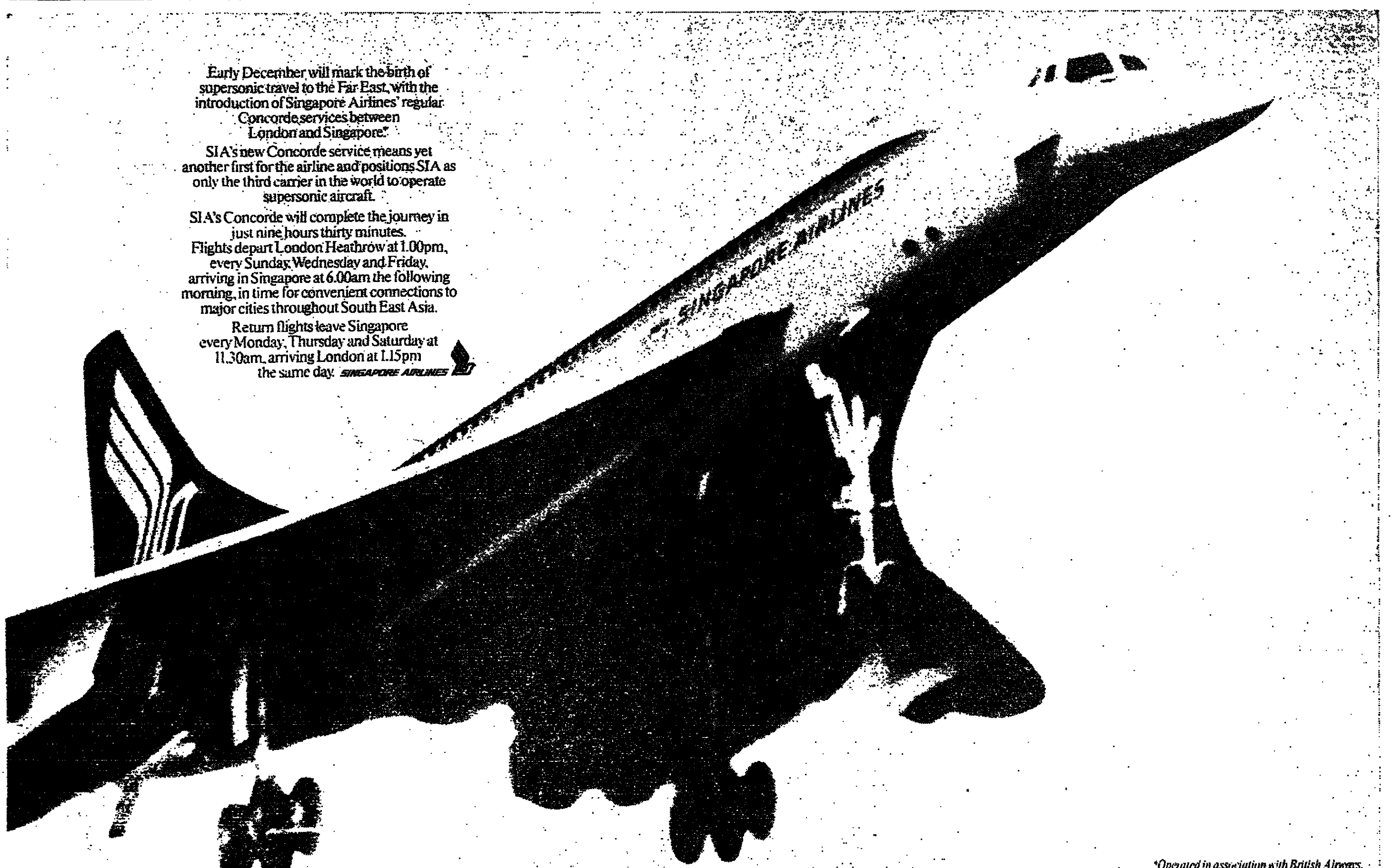
Copenhagen, Oct 31.—The Danish Government was awaiting a British response today to its call for negotiations to settle the dispute. Mr Kjeld Olesen, the Danish Minister of Transport, said: "There is no other way out of this except negotiations".—AP.

Early December will mark the birth of supersonic travel to the Far East, with the introduction of Singapore Airlines' regular Concorde services between London and Singapore.

SIA's new Concorde service means yet another first for the airline and positions SIA as only the third carrier in the world to operate supersonic aircraft.

SIA's Concorde will complete the journey in just nine hours thirty minutes. Flights depart London Heathrow at 1.00pm, every Sunday, Wednesday and Friday, arriving in Singapore at 6.00am the following morning, in time for convenient connections to major cities throughout South East Asia.

Return flights leave Singapore every Monday, Thursday and Saturday at 11.30am, arriving London at 1.15pm the same day. SINGAPORE AIRLINES



*Operated in association with British Airways.

SINGAPORE AIRLINES GOES SUPERSONIC!

OVERSEAS

Rhodesian guerrilla leaders give Lord Carver cold shoulder in surprisingly brief discussions

Dar es Salaam, Oct. 31.—Black Rhodesian guerrilla leaders today cold-shouldered the top British soldier named to lead the country to majority black rule under Anglo-American peace plans.

Talks between Field Marshal Lord Carver and the nationalist leaders Mr Joshua Nkomo and Mr Robert Mugabe lasted just over an hour. They had been intended to extend over two days.

A guerrilla spokesman told reporters: "They lasted longer than we expected. We thought Lord Carver, as a military man, would say everything he had to say in three minutes. But he took a little longer."

Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo, who head the Patriotic Front fighting for Rhodesia's independence, went into the meeting having already publicly rejected Lord Carver's proposed role as commissioner-designate for Rhodesia. After the talks, Mr Nkomo reported: "I said that Lord Carver has (proposed) powers that no person on this globe has ever had," Lord Carver, at his side, listened impassively.

Under the peace proposals, Lord Carver would be a powerful in Rhodesia during a six-month interim period leading to free elections. A joint statement after today's meeting

said only that there had been an exchange of views and an agreement to meet later but that the date was set.

The Dar es Salaam meeting was also attended by General Prem Chand, the United Nations special representative for Rhodesia, and Mr Stephen Low, the American Ambassador to Zambia.

British spokesmen had indicated that Lord Carver would discuss the military side of the Anglo-American peace plan, but but Mr Eugene Gumbo, for the Patriotic Front, said there had been no discussion. "We don't recognize Lord Carver as a Commissioner-designate," Mr Gumbo said.

"We recognize him as a messenger," Mr David Owen, who had a meeting with him as a representative of the British Government.

Lord Carver arrived in Tanzania earlier in the day and had talks with President Nyerere, a leader of the five African "front line" states in the confrontation with Rhodesia.

Diplomats said that Britain appeared to have misjudged the mood of the nationalists.

Both Mr Mugabe and Mr Nkomo have insisted that they will not accept a ceasefire until all other details of the transfer of power to blacks have been settled.

Salisbury: Rhodesia's border with Zambia was reported relatively quiet today after the most serious outbreak of fighting in five years of hostilities. The incident set an uneasy scene for the impending arrival of the British and United Nations envoys.

Lord Carver and General Chand are expected to encounter stiff Rhodesian opposition to any move to dismantle the white-led security forces as envisaged by the Anglo-American plans for a peaceful transition to black rule next year.

Zambia, a principal base for guerrillas led by Mr Nkomo, went on a war footing with Rhodesia in May. Until this weekend the worst cross-border incident had occurred at Chirundu, north of Lake Kariba, in July when Rhodesian frontier post was reported to have been subjected to a 10-hour bombardment.

The military command here said that the Zambian Army unleashed a mortar, machine gun and small arms attack over the Zambezi on a police and army post at Kazungula just after midnight on Saturday.—Reuters.



The Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh on the island of Mustique on Sunday with Princess Margaret and Mr and Mrs Colin Tennant, the former owners of the islands.

Royal visit marred by downpour

From Michael Leppman

Heavy rain overnight disrupted some of the arrangements for the Queen's silver jubilee visit to Barbados. The rain caused power cuts throughout the island. Tourists left their hotels and sought shelter in the town centre, where they were stranded. Water poured through the roof of one of the island's luxury hotels. Many schools closed.

In spite of transport difficulties, however, more than a thousand people turned out at the airport to watch the landing of the Concorde which will fly the Queen home on Wednesday. Mr Adams, the Prime Minister, brought his children to watch the supersonic jet.

The Concorde was a few minutes late, because it took time to fly over the royal yacht, some 35 miles off Barbados.

British Airways technicians had been slightly worried by a small dip in the airport runway which, they thought, might complicate the landing. It could make the front of the aircraft bounce on its undercarriage, setting up a chain reaction. Nothing untoward happened, however, as the Concorde made a noisy entrance to the applause of the spectators.

An inspection inside the aircraft revealed that the Queen will travel in less luxurious style than that to which she is

Tax rise in Israel sets off 24-hour strike

Tel Aviv, Oct. 31.—Airport, dock and factory workers staged a 24-hour strike today in protest against the Government's economic reforms, raising the sales tax and devaluing the Israeli pound.

In Jerusalem, the Knesset opened a debate on the reforms which were announced on Friday. The Communist Hadash Party was to introduce a motion of no-confidence that was doomed to failure because of the 76-seat government majority.

The walkout by maintenance men of El Al, the Israeli airline, left 2,500 passengers stranded at Ben-Gurion airport, creating chaos.

Histradrut, the trade union federation, threatened a general strike to protest against the 25 per cent rise in fuel prices, reduced government subsidies on basic foods and an increase from 8 to 12 per cent in the sales tax.

"This time the unrest began in the work places," said Mr Gideon Ben-Zur, head of the Histradrut strike coordinating committee, said. "We are under very strong pressure from the workers to take much more extreme measures."

At the banks, which opened after a day's delay, the pound rate to the United States dollar was set between 15.15 and 15.50 pounds—a 45 per cent drop from the rate of 10.50 on Friday. The stock market remained closed for the second successive day and will reopen tomorrow.—UPI.

Egypt looks to Britain to meet arms needs

By Henry Stanhope

Defence Correspondent

Britain is on the brink of becoming Egypt's most important arms supplier in the West, with the general approval of the United States.

Sources in London last night denied reports of a forthcoming Anglo-Egyptian pact, saying there is still a great deal of uncertainty. But prospects are now looking brighter for a number of negotiations which have been continuing for several years between British firms and President Sadat's Government and one or two others have been quietly completed in recent months.

Recent contracts include one for the supply of anti-aircraft missiles by Vespene-Thornycroft who are to overhaul the Egyptian Navy's ageing Russian-built missile boats. Still more important is the deal under which British Aerospace and Rolls-Royce are helping to refuel the Egyptian Air Force's MiG-21 aircraft.

Now there is a very real prospect that the negotiations with Westland Helicopters will reach a happy conclusion by the end of the year, with Westland helping the Egyptians to set up their own production line to make up to 250 Lynx helicopters.

Uncertainty still surrounds two more attempts to establish production lines in Egypt, one for the Hawk jet fighter aircraft and the other for the Swingfire anti-tank missile. About \$20m worth of Swingfires have already been bought by the Egyptians. But the prospect of a deal for the Hawk is slightly brighter than they did a few months ago when the Franco-German Alpha-Jet aircraft seemed likely to win the contract.

The Egyptians are certainly anxious to make use of Western expertise to fill the gap left when President Sadat broke away from his Soviet suppliers. A shortage of spares has crippled much of the Russian equipment, and Western technology is now being urgently sought to put this equipment back into service.

The success of President Sadat's moderate policies could well depend upon whether he can put this equipment into working order, since many in the Egyptian armed forces are still critical of the split with the Soviet Union.

It is because of this that President Carter would be happy to see Britain or France supplying Egyptian needs. As long as these do not upset the balance in the Middle East, the United States would find it almost impossible to help the Egyptians on the same scale because of its commitment to Israel and the powerful Jewish lobby in Washington.

Visit abandoned: The British nuclear submarine Dreadnought has given up waiting to pass through the Suez Canal and is on its way back through the Mediterranean, it was learnt last night.

The Royal Navy has been forced to abandon the submarine's planned visit to Iran, the Indian Ocean and the Far East because the Egyptians were reluctant to allow a vessel powered by a nuclear reactor to enter the canal. The Dreadnought is returning to the North Atlantic, after waiting at the north end of the canal since Thursday.

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Emigré praise for Helsinki pact

By Our Diplomatic Staff

A majority of emigré dissidents from East Europe believe that the Helsinki Final Act has produced some tangible results in human rights, an inquiry conducted by the magazine Index on Censorship suggests. But exiled Russians like Andrei Amalrik and Vladimir Bukovsky were conspicuously much more pessimistic.

All those questioned, however, were unanimous in commending President Carter's stand on human rights.

Mr Amalrik, the historian and author of *Will the Soviet Union Survive Until 1984?* who now lives in Washington, felt that for the West, the part of the Helsinki agreement covering human rights, cultural exchanges and freedom of communication was a face-saving device that had enabled the Soviet Union to make sham concessions.

"Putting it bluntly, the West has been willing to pay the USSR not to change for the worse, whereas what it ought to do is pay the USSR to change for the better."

Mr Bukovsky, the biologist who spent 12 years in prison, mental hospital and labour camp and now lives in England, felt the West had, in exchange for dubious formulae, "made considerable and intolerable concessions, in particular by recognising the status quo in Eastern Europe, the Baltic states and in the position of various minority nations in the USSR."

But however much of a fiasco doctrine had been for them personally, the East European emigrés were in the main convinced that, as one Czech put it, "things would be worse without it."

A common view, well put by Mr Leszek Kolakowski, the Polish Marxist philosopher now lecturing at Oxford, was that the Helsinki agreement had encouraged East Europeans to voice their human rights, grievances and demands, and given them a legal document on which to base their claims.

Ota Filip, a Czech writer living in West Germany, thought that without the Helsinki

agreement and its Final Act, such strong movements for civil and human rights could not possibly have sprung up in Eastern Europe. A recent visit to Warsaw had strengthened his feeling that in Helsinki "the Soviets had suffered their first genuine ideological and political defeat."

Wives appear: In a telephone call from Moscow yesterday Mrs Irina Ginzburg and Mrs Irina Orlov the wives of two of imprisoned members of a Moscow group monitoring the Helsinki agreement appealed to Western Governments to speak out publicly at the Helsinki follow-up conference in Belgrade about their husbands and other imprisoned members.

Up to now it has been Western policy to mention individual human rights cases only in private.

The fear is that, like another group member, Dr Yezhov Orlov, they will be charged with treason. "If these men are still in prison when Belgrade comes to an end, the Soviet authorities will be able to do anything they like with them," his wife said.

Prince's tour of America ends with phone threat

San Francisco, Oct. 31.—An anonymous threat against the Prince of Wales delayed his departure for Sydney last night by nearly two hours.

The scheduled flight by Queen's Airline departed after a check was made on the 300 passengers in the Boeing 747 jumbo jet and all luggage on board was inspected.

Mr John Davis, a spokesman for Prince Charles, said the threat had been telephoned to the San Mateo county sheriff. He did not elaborate. American State Department officials assigned to guard the Prince would not confirm that a threat had been made, although they indicated that precautions were taken before the airliner took off.

Prince Charles was ending a 12-day visit to the United States during which he attracted the attention of scores of eager young fans, including Miss Pamela Spurr, a performer with the San Francisco Opera Company, whom he met backstage after a Saturday performance.

She told reporters that she had written for years of the Prince that they shared birthdays—November 14—and the Prince told her they should get together next year to celebrate together.

Miss Spurr said afterwards with a sigh: "He's so eligible and I'm so eligible"—Reuters.

Somali claim of victory in mountains

Nairobi, Oct. 31.—Somali insurgents say they smashed the Ethiopian Army's first offensive against them in the mountains of eastern Ethiopia at the weekend.

Mogadishu radio today quoted the guerrilla newspaper *Dubab* as saying that 320 Ethiopian troops were killed and nine captured, in fierce fighting in the mountains.

It said the surviving Ethiopians fled, abandoning ammunition and other material.

Diplomatic sources in Ethiopia and Djibouti said that Soviet MiGs, tanks and rocket artillery and some Cuban advisers had been rushed to Harar and to Dire Dawa, which the guerrillas also want to take.

Dubab also said that in a separate clash the Somalis last week had killed 105 Ethiopian soldiers and captured a bridge on the vital rail line linking the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa with newly independent Djibouti.

The fighting took place about 60 miles west of Dire Dawa, the newspaper said.—Reuters and UPI.

Violent protests at Gandhi visit end in 600 arrests

Madras, Oct. 31.—More than 600 people were arrested in six cities in the south Indian province of Tamil Nadu today in violent demonstrations against the visit of Mrs Gandhi, the former Prime Minister.

The state government has ordered a judicial inquiry into the violence.

Two people were killed when police opened fire on crowds in Madras, scene of the worst disturbances. At least 100 were hurt in clashes and 15 injured policemen were taken to hospital.

Mrs Gandhi's motor procession was attacked at Madras, 300 miles south of Madras, on Saturday. She was unhurt, though several supporters were injured in a hail of stones, bottles and shoes.

In Hyderabad today, Mrs Gandhi expressed sorrow at the death of the demonstrators, but told journalists that she was being shielded with planned visits to Karaula and Andhra Pradesh starting tomorrow.

She said the Janata Government wanted to defend leaders of the former ruling Congress Party. "They want to get rid of me because they can't keep me quiet"—Reuters.

Pakistan law 'inhuman'

Karachi, Oct. 31.—A group of 41 Pakistani intellectuals called today for abolition of Islamic punishments such as amputation, introduced by the martial law authorities.

They said such punishment was inhuman and the aim of revenge by deterrence was out-

87,000 Soweto students boycott classes

Johannesburg, Oct. 31.—Students in the black township of Soweto defied a government order to return to school today and lost the year.

Principal said that their schools were empty.

Some students appeared at schools, but left when they saw that a majority were continuing the boycott.

About 87,000 pupils were boycotting classes to protest against Bantu education, throughout South Africa about 200,000 black students are boycotting classes in the protest.

The boycott began in August when 27,000 Soweto secondary school pupils walked out of their classes. They were joined

Pretoria fear of aggressive new stance by guerrillas

From Eric Marsden

Johannesburg, Oct. 31

Military experts were today studying reports of the week-end clash with a black guerrilla force on the Angola-Namibia border, amid speculation that the South-West Africa Peoples' Organisation (SWAPO) may be adopting a more aggressive posture.

The guerrillas had been fairly passive for a year and almost always sought to avoid clashes with South African forces in the Angola border area. In the last few weeks, though, there has been a rash of skirmishes, sometimes several in a day, culminating in the 36-hour weekend battle in which, according to South Africa, 61 black insurgents and six South Africans died.

A defence spokesman in Pretoria said it was not known why SWAPO had suddenly decided to send 80 men across the border. They had never crossed in such numbers before. Then, he suggested, the guerrillas may have found they had not lost a fight that was not easy to break off.

An editorial in the Johannesburg *Star* said that without a South African military presence "the guerrillas, armed to the teeth with modern weapons, would invade the country in large numbers during the transition period" in Namibia.

This would leave Namibia's incoming Government at the mercy of the guerrilla forces and a negotiated settlement with the West's blessing would not be worth the paper it was written on.

The editorial is evidence of the agreement among politicians of both parties about external threats to the security of South Africa and Namibia.

Knowing that it has the support of all the white powers for its rough attitude on the external threat, the Government is expected to harden the tough line it has already taken on Namibia and Rhodesia. It is already being hinted that South African cooperation on a Rhodesian settlement and negotiating Namibia's independence will depend on the outcome of the United Nations Security Council debate on the sanctions to be imposed on the republic.

If the emphasis at the United Nations is on economic sanctions, South Africa is emphasizing the side-effects will be felt not only by the United States and European countries with fragile economies, but by African states that rely on South Africa economically while attacking it politically. These include Mozambique, Botswana, Lesotho, Swaziland and Zambia.

Ex-CIA chief sentenced

Washington, Oct. 31.—Mr Richard Helms, the former Central Intelligence Agency (CIA) Director, pleaded "no contest" to a misdemeanor charge of failing to give a Senate committee full answers about the CIA's role in Chile, the Justice Department said today. He received a suspended minimum sentence.

The department said that it made the plea agreement with Mr Helms in order to avoid the security risk of bringing him to trial on a felony charge.—UPI.

Mr Allon welcomes US hint of Geneva talks delay

From Patrick Brogan

Washington, Oct. 31

Mr Yigal Allon, the former Israeli Foreign Minister, said here this morning that he found American officials more optimistic than he was that the Geneva Middle East Peace Conference might be held in January or February.

He noted with approval that they no longer seemed to attach such importance to starting the conference in December.

In a broadcast interview yesterday, Mr Zbigniew Brzezinski, President Carter's National Security Adviser, said the conference would start in January or February.

Mr Allon said that although "historically" it was important to press ahead with the conference, it was better to give all sides a breathing space now before bringing them together.

He refused to criticize Mr Begin's Government directly, and quoted a recent speech by

Torture 'routine practice' in Morocco

By Our Foreign Staff

Torture appears to be a routine practice of security police in Morocco during the interrogation of political prisoners, Amnesty International reported yesterday.

This was confirmed by the consistency of reports by victims, their relatives, lawyers, doctors and former prisoners.

Torture was inflicted "mainly to terrify and humiliate the detainees, but also to extract confessions and information about their political activities and associates," the report said.

In July, 1977, there were more than 200 political prisoners in Morocco who had been tried and sentenced, and several hundred more detained without trial, the report added.

Morocco (Amnesty International, 8-15 Southampton St, London, WC2E 7HF; 40p).

Mr Sadat tries to enlist Shah as emissary to US

Teheran, Oct. 31.—President Sadat, of Egypt, arrived in Teheran today on the second stop of a three-month tour aimed at bringing Arabs and Israelis to a peace conference in Geneva.

He flew to Teheran after two days of talks with President Ceausescu in Bucharest. During the weekend he said he was using President Ceausescu as a go-between with Mr Begin, the Israeli Prime Minister, who met the Romanian leader two months ago.

Sources close to the Sadat delegation in Teheran said Mr Sadat also planned to spend time with Iranian officials discussing the Ogaden conflict in the Horn of Africa, as well as the situation in the Middle East. The visit was expected to last a day before he leaves for Saudi Arabia.

Mr Sadat was to begin talks with the Shah of Iran late today. The Shah is due to meet President Carter on November 15 and will be carrying on to him the results of his discus-

To village families, Cambodian leaders are remote and anonymous

Continued from page 1

with two rest periods. The children aged from 6 to 15 finished their work day at 6 pm. The youngsters also received food twice a day, but less than their elders. Adults were given half a small condensed-milk can of food on each occasion and the children received a small bowl of food for two.

The contents were generally the same: a soup of sweet potatoes, leaves from the pulp of the trunks of banana trees and a little rice. Sometimes, Kheng said, the soup tasted slightly of fish, but he was never lucky enough to find a piece.

His father and his brother-in-law, Roeng Chhay, said they sometimes received a little fish but it was always rotten. They recalled meat on the occasion of the Cambodian new year but never sugar.

They were lucky, they said, that most of the time there was salt. Their village, Sre Ambel, is near the sea in Koh Kong province, a region that traditionally lived on fishing.

Asked when their day started, Kheng and Kay thought for a while then

agreed that it was with the second crowing of the cock, before dawn. They had to line up and answer while the roll was called and then they were assigned their day's work.

Mainly it was lighter work in the paddy and sweet-potato fields or in digging irrigation ditches and small dams, a national effort heavily emphasized by the Government in Phnom Penh. The boys' group was supervised by a woman soldier, the girls by a man. Kheng and Kay said most of their supervisors frightened them and the other children were too scared to resist.

The family fled on the day that a girl, for reasons Kay did not know, crossed a field to her family's house and was intercepted by a group of soldiers who split her belly open with a knife. The group leader, Kay recalled, with no sign of emotion, made all the girls view the disembowelled body.

Kheng said a boy caught stealing sweet potatoes—all the boys did, he said—was beaten about the head with a bicycle wrenches by two soldiers in

front of his companions and was left in an unconscious heap. Under the boy said, the punishment for stealing was to spend a month or two with shackled legs in a prison compound, with the shackles removed only during working time.

Politics were not preached to the children, however. Asked who the leaders of Cambodia were, brother and sister answered with the names of their respective group chiefs and said they knew no one higher.

The children's father and brother-in-law said they had heard two names as the leaders of Cambodia, President Khieu Samphan and Pol Pot, the Prime Minister. They knew no others, they said, and never heard of either the leaders, nor of anyone higher than their district chief.

Their village had been under the control of the communist rebels since 1971, but life did not reach its present grimness until 1975, Hong Lok Heng, the children's 50-year-old father, said.

The worst days in his village began when bedraggled groups of people, driven out of Phnom Penh after the communist conquest of the capital, began to arrive and were quartered with the villagers.

Weakened by their long march and cruelly mistreated, they were forced to perform hard and unaccustomed work on little food. Those who could stand it became very thin; those who could not died like flies.

Hong Lok Heng's fishing launch was confiscated in 1975. Thinking even then of fleeing, he traded his bicycle for a rowing boat, which he concealed under water, changing its hiding place frequently. After he took his 25-year-old son-in-law, a soldier under President Lon Nol, into his confidence earlier this year, they decided to flee during the political rally that would unite the people of the district on September 29, at the end of the rice harvest.

They chose that occasion because both couples would be briefly reunited and would see their children, as everyone's

attendance at the rally was mandatory. For a month before Hong Lok Heng began to hide sweet potatoes from his own garden, an act which is frequently punished with death.

With great difficulty and by devious routes, the two men led their wives and children to the coast where the boat was hidden, with four sacks of sweet potatoes, jars of drinking water, some pots and their scant clothes.

They set off late at night, the men and the younger woman sharing the four oars, as they did all the way to Thailand.

Their big problem, one that arises in most accounts of the adventures of the boat people, was to keep the children from crying and giving away their hiding place.

In the Cambodians case, this was repeated every day for seven days. The men said they gave the youngsters plastic bags of rice, and the youngest man added: "We kissed them when they wanted to cry and carried them a lot."—New York Times News Service.

JPR 100150

OVERSEAS

Vietnamese hijackers' fate still undecided

Singapore, Oct 31.—Singapore said tonight it had not yet decided what to do with four Vietnamese who hijacked an Air Vietnam aircraft here on Saturday after killing two members of its crew. A Government spokesman was commenting on Vietnamese news reports that Singapore intended to return the hijackers.

The spokesman said the reports were untrue and reiterated that, once investigations were finished, the four men would be dealt with under international laws and conventions. However, it is not clear whether Singapore has the legal right to try the hijackers for a crime committed over Vietnam.

The Air Vietnam DC3 was seized minutes after it had taken off from Ho Chi Minh City (formerly Saigon) on a domestic flight. Soon afterwards the flight engineer and radio officer were killed.

Foreign Ministry sources said the hijackers initially asked to be taken to Singapore but were turned down and now seeking asylum in the United States or France.

The Singapore Government seems to be taking a tough stand against the hijackers, especially in view of the killing of the two crew men. However, Singapore might still return the four to Vietnam, although there is no extradition treaty between the two countries.

In Hongkong, captain Derry Pearce, president of the International Federation of Airline Pilots' Associations, sent a message to President Benjamin Sheares of Singapore asking that the provisions of The Hague and Montreal conventions on air piracy be strictly applied to the hijackers. He also sent a message to President Ton Duc Thang of Vietnam, saying that his federation was "actively seeking the cooperation of all nations in an attempt to rid the world of crimes of violence against civil aviation."

Round the world in 54 hours

San Francisco, Oct 31.—A Pan American World Airways Boeing 747 carrying 150 passengers landed here last night after flying round the world in a record 54 hours, 7 minutes.

The flight sliced more than eight hours off the old record of 62 hours, 27 minutes set by a Boeing 707 cargo jet in 1963. The Pan Am jet travelled more than 25,000 miles and crossed the North and South Poles during the journey.

Twenty-two first class pas-

Mr Trudeau retreats from his idea of nationwide vote on Quebec

From John Bear

Ottawa, Oct 31

Mr Trudeau has opened a hornet's nest with the announcement nearly two weeks ago that the Government was considering its own referendum on the question of Quebec's separation from Canada.

Canadians are still trying to digest the implications of the Prime Minister's unexpected statement. In the meantime, Mr Trudeau has been doing some back-peddling.

After first telling the Commons that the Government intended to introduce legislation that would permit a referendum, he modified this to say the enabling legislation would be introduced "if we get the cooperation of the opposition parties". The federal opposition parties have taken a wait-and-see attitude.

Mr Trudeau also raised the possibility that the special vote might be held in Quebec only, rather than Canada as a whole as he first intimated. At no time has the Prime Minister formally committed himself to holding a referendum, either on the Quebec issue or on other constitutional matters that the

enabling legislation would cover.

Rather, he talks about the need to equip the federal authority with the "tools" it may require to counter the Parti Québécois Government's strategy or trying to achieve Quebec independence through a referendum.

The result of all this has been confusion as to just what Mr Trudeau does have in mind and the strength of his determination to achieve it. There is speculation that the Prime Minister made his referendum announcement under the influence of M Marc Lalonde, his minister for federal-provincial relations.

At most, only a few Cabinet ministers were involved. In whatever discussions took place before the Prime Minister's Commons statement.

Now Mr Trudeau is planning visits to the 10 provincial governments, including Mr René Lévesque of Quebec, for talks on constitutional and other questions. His thoughts on a referendum will probably be further refined as a result.

In Quebec City, the suggestion that Canadians as a whole might be polled on the question of Quebec's place in con-

federation drew a predictable response. "It's up to the Quebec people to decide the future of Quebec", Mr Lévesque said.

More surprising and perhaps more significant, the opposition parties, in the provincial assembly, all federalist, rallied behind the principle of Quebec's right to decide its own future.

Mr Lévesque used historical precedent to back up his argument. When Newfoundland joined Canada in 1949, he noted, it was on the basis of a referendum in which only the Newfoundland people took part.

"The whole idea of a federal referendum has negative connotations in Quebec. During the Second World War, a plebiscite was held on whether military conscription should be imposed in Canada."

Quebec voted massively against conscription, while the rest of the country voted just as massively in favour. Thousands of young Quebec men were called up against their wishes and those of their families, and the conscription crisis left a residue of bitterness in English-French relations in Canada that still lingers.

Many die in China for political crimes

Peking, Oct 31.—At least 23 people have been executed in the south-western Chinese city of Kunming for political crimes, according to court proclamations there.

The executions were the latest of a series in various parts of the country since the downfall just over a year ago of the extreme "gang of four", which included Mao Tse-tung's widow, Chiang Ching.

The proclamations indicated that the purge of "gang" followers was continuing throughout China as the pragmatic post-Mao leadership moves to eradicate all vestiges of extreme influence. But there have been a number of suggestions, primarily from provincial radio broadcasts, that the campaign is proceeding neither as quickly nor as smoothly as the central leadership would like.

There have even been a few provincial radio statements recently saying that the position of Chairman Hua Guofeng must itself be defended, a possible suggestion of dissension somewhere in the party ranks.

Travellers and local radio broadcasts have reported executions for counter-revolutionary activities—regarded as political crimes against the state punishable by death—among 12 widely separated cities other than Kunming since the arrest of the "gang of four" on October 6 last year.

Recent travellers to Kunming, a Yunnan province, said they saw proclamations posted on walls in the city.

The proclamations were able to read contained 47 names, of which 23 were listed for immediate execution in September, most for political crimes. These offences included disseminating counter-revolutionary leaflets and forming counter-revolutionary groups. Death sentences in China are carried out by shooting.

The other 24 people listed were sentenced to prison terms for various offences. The travellers said that of the five other proclamations one contained about the same number of names and four of them between 15 and 20 names each.

Meanwhile, China has reiterated its concept of three worlds—the superpowers, developed countries and developing nations—and says that the Soviet Union remains the biggest threat to peace. The re-statement of Mao's three worlds policy comes in a 35,000-word article to be published in the People's Daily tomorrow.

Reuter.
Leading article, page 15

Law Report October 31 1977

Court of Appeal

Lacuna in Domestic Violence Act

Lewis v Lewis

Before Lord Justice Roskill and Lord Justice Ormrod

The Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act, 1976, by virtue of section 2(1) of which a person may be arrested under power of an attached to an injunction, does not authorize detention for longer than 24 hours after the arrest. The Court of Appeal pointed to this lacuna in the Act and said that it should be remedied as soon as possible.

Their Lordships also declared that the Act was general in its application and not confined to applications for injunctions under section 1.

The Court of Appeal allowed an appeal by Mrs. Anne Helen Lewis from the refusal of Judge McCreary at Southampton County Court to attach a power of arrest to a matrimonial injunction sought in the course of divorce proceedings and sent the case back to the judge for decision.

Section 2 provides: "(1) Where, on an application by a party to a marriage, a judge grants an injunction under section 1 (in whatever terms)—(a) restraining the other party to the marriage from using violence against the applicant, or (b) restraining the other party from using violence against a child living with the applicant, or (c) excluding the other party from the matrimonial home or from a specified area in which the matrimonial home is included, the judge may, if he is satisfied that the other party has caused actual bodily harm to the applicant or, as the case may be, to the child concerned and considers that he is likely to do so again, attach a power of arrest to the injunction."

(3) If, by virtue of subsection (1) above, a power of arrest is attached to an injunction, a constable may arrest without warrant a person whom he has reasonable cause for suspecting of being in breach of such a provision of that injunction as falls within paragraph (a) to (c) of subsection (1) above by reason of that

person's use of violence or, as the case may be, of his entry into any premises, or arrest a person to whom the injunction is addressed is arrested under subsection (3) above, (a) he shall be brought before a judge within the period of 24 hours beginning at the time of his arrest, and (b) he shall not be released within that period except on the direction of the judge, but nothing in this section shall authorize his detention at any time after the expiry of that period."

Mr David Trotter for the wife. The husband, Mr Roger William Francis Lewis, did not appear and was not represented.

LORD JUSTICE ORMROD said that the appeal arose out of an application by the wife in divorce proceedings for an order in familiar form restraining the husband from molesting her and requiring him to vacate the matrimonial home. The judge took the view that section 2 of the Domestic Violence and Matrimonial Proceedings Act applied only where the application was made pursuant to section 1. Section 2 was in general terms and applied where any judge granted an injunction in any of the three forms mentioned in section 2. The judge had been wrong in concluding that it was not possible to attach a power of arrest to an injunction granted in divorce proceedings.

The appeal gave the court an opportunity to comment on points raised by the Act. The first was that the person applying had to satisfy the court on two separate grounds, that the other party had caused actual bodily harm to the applicant and that he was likely to do so again. In the present case there was virtually no evidence that the husband had made a finding on the second point.

The judge's order had been in existence since September 15. Nothing had happened between the parties since that date and apparent peace existed, save that the wife would not return to the matrimonial home, which had been empty since the judge's order.

Secondly, the power of arrest was not to be regarded as a routine remedy by any means. It was plain from the wording that it was exceptional. It was very useful for exceptional cases where a man or woman persisted in disobeying an injunction.

Thirdly, notice should be given in an application for an injunction that it was proposed to ask the court for a power of arrest. If that was not done the respondent might not turn up. He ought to be warned because he might submit to the injunction but oppose the power of arrest.

Fourthly, in section 2(4) Parliament had left in the air the powers of the judge when the power of arrest was put into effect. Section 2(4) required the person arrested to be brought before a judge within 24 hours. If he was not, he had to be released; but if he was, the Act contained no provision for the judge to do anything. No power was given by the Act to the judge to keep a man in custody a moment longer than 24 hours. The judge could not commit in the present class of contempt on his own motion, and the only other way to deal with it was for the other party to apply for an order for attachment or committal. His Lordship found it quite obscure what the judge could do when a person was brought before him. There was a large lacuna in the Act which ought to be remedied as soon as possible.

The only course the court could take was to allow the appeal in point of law in that the judge had no power to consider whether to attach a power of arrest, but it was for him to decide whether to do so. In those circumstances the appeal would be allowed.

Lord Justice Roskill delivered a concurring judgment.

Solicitors: Coffin, Mew & Clover, Southampton.

Science report

Medicine: Megavitamin theory

Few people realize that vitamins can cause serious poisoning and, indeed, vitamin pills have an aura of safety and healthiness about them that is very different from that of drugs such as tranquilizers. Health-food enthusiasts will often take regular doses of vitamins while rejecting "synthetic" drugs and many people prefer to treat coughs and colds with vitamins rather than with conventional medicines.

Reliance on vitamins does no harm so long as the doses taken are small, but a new trend, growing in popularity, is the use of enormous doses of vitamins in the treatment of some mental states. Extravagant claims have been made for this megavitamin therapy in the treatment of schizophrenia and in some behaviour disorders in children. In the United States megavitamin therapy is being widely used, against medical advice, as a treatment for minimal brain dysfunction, a diagnosis applied to children whose

behaviour is disruptive and who are physically hyperactive. The dangers of this indiscriminate use of vitamins are shown in a report from Yale of a boy aged four brought to the university hospital complaining of painful legs. He had a fever and was irritable, and his mouth and lips were sore and cracked. Tests showed that his blood contained more than 10 times the normal amounts of vitamin A and that the high concentration had caused bone damage, so explaining the pain. His liver had also been damaged. Although the family denied that he had been given vitamins, his nursery school teachers reported that he carried a bottle of tablets everywhere and had eaten them continuously.

Vitamin A is the most dangerous. Overdosage can be fatal, although symptoms usually lead to medical intervention while the condition is still reversible. Excess vitamin D may damage the kidneys and may lead to calcium being deposited in the blood vessels. Other vitamins are safer, but in

general it is true that a substance that affects the body chemistry in low concentrations may have a magnified action when taken in excess.

The belief that if small doses do some good then big doses should do more good is based on fallacious reasoning. Taking extra vitamins is rather like giving a car engine extra oil. Furthermore the whole range of vitamins, minerals such as iron and indeed all essential nutrients are present in adequate quantities in any reasonably balanced diet. Treatment with vitamins is needed only if for some reason the diet is inadequate or if there is some disease that prevents normal absorption of vitamins from food. Otherwise vitamin therapy is at best a simple placebo and at worst a form of self-poisoning.

By Our Medical Correspondent
Source: *Journal of the American Medical Association*, October 17 (p1749).

WANTED-A BALEFOUR

Would Balfour have signed this?

1917

Foreign Office,
November 2nd, 1917.

Dear Lord Rothschild,
I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of His Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Jewish Zionist aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.
"His Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment in Palestine of a national home for the Jewish people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of existing non-Jewish communities in Palestine, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Jews in any other country."

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Zionist Federation.

Y. in
Amos
Balfour

1917

Dear Chairman Arafat,
I have much pleasure in conveying to you, on behalf of Her Majesty's Government, the following declaration of sympathy with Palestinian aspirations which has been submitted to, and approved by, the Cabinet.
"Her Majesty's Government view with favour the establishment on Palestinian soil of a national state for the Palestinian people, and will use their best endeavours to facilitate the achievement of this object, it being clearly understood that nothing shall be done which may prejudice the civil and religious rights of the existing Jewish population of Israel, or the rights and political status enjoyed by Palestinians in any other country."

I should be grateful if you would bring this declaration to the knowledge of the Palestine Liberation Organisation.

Floating pound advances 6.33 cents on the dollar in widespread demand

A statement by Mr. Michael Blumenthal, United States Treasury Secretary, that America wanted to preserve the strength of the dollar helped the currency to recover during the day.

expecting a further decline in the rate this year. The Bank of England has been the heaviest supporter of the dollar on the exchanges. Without this support, as the Bank allows the pound to rise, the dollar will be weakened.

In New York the dollar moved sharply lower against most major currencies in afternoon trading.

Finally at the close sterling was traded almost 7 cents up against the dollar.

Wall Street prices too reflected the uncertainty affecting the dollar. The Dow Jones Industrial Average closed 433 points down at 818.35.

Equities rally after an early retreat

earlier, and a stronger pound is seen as putting a further squeeze on profits.

Nor only will 1976's exchange rate profits be absent, but, if the present parities hold, there could be significant losses on exchange rate conversion at the year end.

Export margins will also be under pressure, especially next year, and it is pointed out that a lower rate of inflation will

The gilt market, however, was more interested in the implications for the money supply, which will have to be controlled by the Bank of England under intense pressure as a result of the huge inflows of foreign funds.

There are still worries about whether money supply will be containable next year as the economy revives.

Base rates cut: Finance House base rate cut half a point to 6 per cent yesterday, the lowest level since July, 1972.

FHA rates are fixed in relation to money market rates and the latest cut is in line with the steady fall in interest rates.

Financial Editor, page 21

IMF doubts on sterling stability

Peter Norman writes from Bonn: While sterling's movements against the Deutsche mark generally reflect its fluctuations against the dollar, there appears to be a growing feeling in German banking circles that economic recovery in Britain is a reality.

Michael Horasby writes from Brussels: The cost of nearly all food imports will remain unchanged because of the special over-valued exchange rate used for translating the EEC's common farm prices, expressed in units of account, into sterling. But the stronger pound will reduce slightly the size of the large subsidies which have to be paid on British food imports to sustain the "green" pound rate.

London metal prices take heavy tumble

Sugar futures were about £3 a tonne lower. Coffee futures were least affected, as sterling's rise could only cancel out the

effect of a sharp advance in New York coffee on Friday.

Mills & Allen	23p to 85p
Ningate Explorer	10p to 290p
Photo-Me Int	80p to 200p
Sidway Ind	6p to 33p
Steep Rock	8p to 186p
York	5p to 76p
Yarrow	5p to 248p

Kloof	36p to 391p
Lydensburg Plat	5p to 50p
Lyonsburg	7p to 62p
SA Land	5p to 66p
Seccombe Mar	15p to 250p
Taylor Woodrow	14p to 466p
Unilever	12p to 572p

Gold gained \$0.50 an ounce to \$161.625.
S.D.R. rose 17889 on Monday.

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SDR-E was 1.17999 on Monday, while SDR-E was 0.664099.
Commodities: Reuter's index was at 1,463.8 (previous 1,484.9).
Reports, pages 22 and 24

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Reports, pages 22 and 24

Annual statements:
F. G. 26

Panel looks at freight costs and Welsh coal

Concern about likely heavy increases in road freight charges against a background of wage negotiations, which threaten to break the Government's 10 per cent pay guidelines prompted Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, to order the Commission to carry out a nationwide examination of the hauliers' cost and price structure.

These were that the merchants, who are based in the Preseli and South Pembrokeshire areas of west Wales, are charging too high prices and offering too little competition on prices.

Under new powers which came into effect on August 1, the commission can make far-reaching recommendations enforceable by the Secretary of State for Britain and Germany.

In making the reference on

road haulage Mr Hattersley hinted at the threat of sanctions against high wage settlements. He said a major factor affecting the industry's charges appeared to be wage costs on

The Government is alarmed that a pay settlement giving heavy goods vehicle drivers in the west Midlands a 15 per cent

Agreed late last month, the deal was made between union negotiators and the powerful

Wage negotiations are at present in progress for other areas, but the west Midlands is traditionally regarded as a region

The majority of road haulage concerns are too small to have to prenotify the Price Commis-

sion about their proposed price increases. But the National Freight Corporation applied recently for increases of about 30 per cent for certain of its loss-making operations.

After discussions with the commission the increases were subsequently modified to a maximum of 15 per cent for the Roadline UK parcels company while the increase in rates of

another NFC subsidiary, National Carriers, were agreed at 9 per cent.

Patricia Tisdall

y Boot

Report 1977

ach obtained in 1976. The
d to a break-even position
ew. The Joinery activity is
ivities are on budget.

Group profits before tax
the previous year.

group include:

	1976	
	Half-year ended 30th June £ 000	Year ended 31st December £ 000

89	26,133	57,017
777	1,172	2,531
—	4	—
77	1,176	2,531

77	1,176	2,351
08	608	1,328
69	568	1,203

Share of 50p in respect of
er 1977 which is at the
end declared last year and
i year 1976, £437,000).

the 11th November 1977
are on the register at the
October 1977.
- E. H. BOOT,

Chairman

**ENGINEERING
PLANT PROPERTY**

be obtained from the Secretary,
Cross Hall, Sheffield, S11 9PD.

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Gilts get the message

However reluctantly it may have been taken, yesterday's decision to let sterling rise is excellent news for the gilt-edged market. It is first and foremost a reassertion in the belief that policy of the money supply is regarded by policymakers as the top priority.

There had come to be some doubt on that score. Earlier this year it had been possible to sell gilts on a sufficient scale to neutralize the effect of the foreign currency inflows and simultaneously to hold the pound stable in terms of its Smithsonian index. Lately the inflows have no longer been containable in this way, and it will be profoundly reassuring to financial markets that when some thing had to give, it was the sacred cow of export competitiveness rather than the monetary targets.

It is true that, if the higher parity achieves its objective and the inflows abate, an important factor which has fuelled the rise in gilt prices will be eliminated. It is certainly hard to see Minimum Lending Rate going anywhere other than up. But initial indications from the continent yesterday did not point to a sudden cessation of investment in British financial assets, and it is once again seen that the Bank of England is intervening to hold the pound back at a higher level than the market would have brought in quicker than ever.

For equities the prospect of lower inflation via a strengthening pound is not a wholly unmixed blessing, however. Losses on exchange rate conversions and pressure on export margins will intensify existing worries about corporate profitability next year and point to a period of some uncertainty in the immediate future for share prices.

But real living standards will now be rising more strongly and the short term effect of the stronger pound on the balance of payments will be to increase it before the competitive disadvantages work through. Add in the prospect of higher dividends, unimpaired by the pound's rise, and shares still look more likely to go up than down.

Profits

Export margins will be squeezed

The near two point improvement in the terms of trade between the second and third quarters this year says more about the longer-term competitiveness of British exports than all the less than sanguine forecasts on the outlook for exports next year that have started to seep out of some manufacturing groups.

For although some of the gain in the terms of trade has been due simply to sterling's appreciation, it has been fairly apparent that exporters have been reasonably successful in restoring profit margins closer to levels ruling this time last year when sterling was under pressure. There is, however, a limit to how far this can go and it is a fair assumption that exporters will have to take the lion's share of yesterday's appreciation in sterling on margins since otherwise they will be squeezed out of world markets.

There is, it is true, little evidence from Germany or Japan that an appreciating exchange rate eats into export potential with quality, delivery dates and so on affecting competitiveness as much as price. By the same token, though, there is little practical evidence about the elasticity of British exports and at the moment few would probably disagree that they are fairly price-sensitive.

Short-term, then, sterling's rise will inevitably squeeze export margins although in the medium-term there should be some offset from reduced cost pressures at home as lower import costs work through to industry.

Whatever the final outcome the immediate effect must be to knock even more of the shine off last year's market leaders like overseas traders and insurance brokers, while shipping, whose costs are in sterling and revenue in foreign currencies, is already in the doldrums for other reasons.

Stock Exchange

A challenge on commissions

Is The Stock Exchange operating a cartel? Possibly, says the Office of Fair Trading, and duty set in motion an elaborate procedure which could put The Stock Exchange's rule book and its commission rate structure in front of the Restrictive Practices Court. It could be two years before that happened, however.

Certainly, it is being seen as a long-term

threat at a time when the market has plenty of short-term problems to deal with. Moreover, since one of the results of the OFT's action might be forced abandonment of the fixed commissions structure, The Stock Exchange reckons it has a good defence in that the two-year-old era of negotiated commissions in New York has brought havoc to the market there in terms of the failure rate of brokerage houses.

If negotiated commissions were introduced in London under a Restrictive Practices Court edict there would undoubtedly be similar consequences. Whatever institutional investors may say now they would be bound to seek the best dealing price available, and in the fight for survival in a strictly competitive environment some brokers would be cutting commissions heavily.

It is clear, too, that under negotiated commissions the lobbying system which is unique to London would be placed under serious stress in its present form since pres-



Mr Gordon Borrie (left), director-general of the Office of Fair Trading, and Mr Nicholas Goodison, chairman of The Stock Exchange.

sure from brokers to act in a dual capacity role could become unworkable.

As the OFT starts detailed investigations, then, The Stock Exchange will be raising the spectre of the carnage that could result among member firms if fixed commissions have to go.

Company disclosure

Horses for courses

Prompted both by passed and intended EEC directives on Company Law, the Department of Trade is tinkering with a far more complex but fairer system of disclosure than exists under current legislation. Thus Mr Stanley Clinton Davis talking to the Industrial Society yesterday said that it may well be that the United Kingdom will move into a three-tier system of corporate disclosure: a shortened simplified form for small companies, an extended version of the currently required reports and accounts for medium sized companies and comprehensive accounts, on the lines suggested in the recent Green Paper, for large companies.

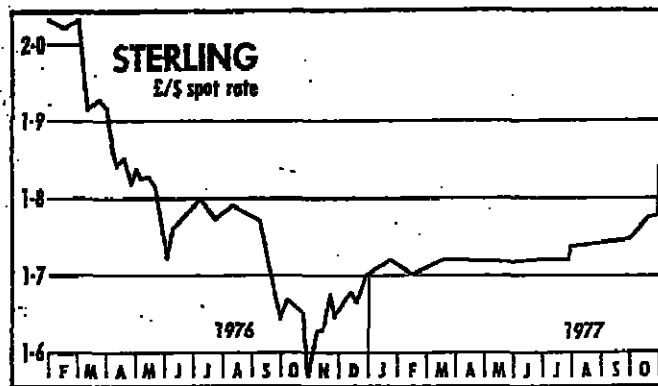
It would reduce substantially the problems of both the Accounting Standards Committee in drawing up rules for the presentation of accounts which must apply equally to large and small, and of the Auditing Practices Committee, which is still in the throes of producing strict guidelines for checking the disclosure a company has made.

But altering the rules on disclosure alone, will not be enough. It is impossible to divorce disclosure requirements from the requirements of company audits. Disclosure which is not audited is almost worthless, whereas auditing of unnecessary disclosure is expensive, time-wasting, and potentially misleading in that it may be pronouncing on figures, which he has no real reason to qualify, yet, because of the smallness of the concern, cannot properly identify.

A solution would be to return to the position prior to the 1967 Company Act where very small companies were exempt from filing returns. But that would take away at least some protection to creditors. The department has so far set its face against a change in the form of incorporation for small companies which would keep limited liability but take away the need for a full audit. Accountants disagree over the merits of such a proposal while there are legitimate worries for two-tier disclosure for public companies. The whole question of disclosure and auditing is open to debate. It should not be left to the accountancy profession to put the only case.

David Blake takes a look at the reasons behind the decision to let the pound float

Mr Healey sticks to his monetary targets



The decision to let the pound float on yesterday was forced on the authorities by the continuing inflows of recent weeks. But its true genesis goes back much further than that, to October, 1976, when minimum-lending rate was raised to 15 per cent.

The meaning of this action was that under the pressure of financial crisis the Government intended to put observance of its monetary targets above everything else. The decision to let sterling go up means that even now that the external crisis has passed the money guidelines still have priority.

The first thing to realize is that the Treasury has not been converted to international monetarism, with its belief that the rise in the exchange rate is the means by which tight money supply targets cause lower inflation.

The old rules are still thought to apply: for every rise of 5 per cent in the pound's value, the inflation rate is reduced by about 1.1 per cent.

Even the international monetarists themselves would concede that in the short-term the relation is not one-to-one, as their latest *Economic Outlook* the London Business School asserted that the anti-inflationary impact of a revaluation takes four years to work through fully, and that even after 18 months only half the effect has been felt.

Over the next year, the effect of any change in parity will be to act as a small brake on the inflation rate (though we can expect that to be exaggerated as much now in an effort to walk down union wage demands as it was dismissed by the Treasury in 1976).

The most obvious impact will instead be on our external account, with a leap in the terms of trade to a higher level leading to a larger surplus than expected over the next six months, followed by a downturn in the volume of exports.

Export volumes have been falling very sharply this year. This is due to a number of factors, including the competitive advantage which was gained in 1976 through the pound's slide. That slide reduced the relative price of British exports to little more than 85 per cent of their March, 1973, level, according to the index constructed by the Morgan Guaranty Trust.

Since then the pound has stopped falling and appreciated

by 14.9 per cent. The relative price index is now above 100 and will rise further as a result of the float.

Some of the loss of competitiveness shown by this was caused by an acceleration of inflation which was in turn caused by the higher port prices produced by the profit devaluation, but much of it comes from the fact that for 1977 as a whole the domestically generated rate of inflation has been higher than that of our trading partners at a time when our exchange rate has been tending to rise.

The ending of phase two of pay policy will almost certainly lead to a renewed widening of this differential as pay settlements result in earnings increases of more than 10 per cent.

In the short-term therefore the effect will be to accentuate a loss of competitiveness which has been occurring already.

It is probably significant that the latest CBI *Industrial Trends* survey published today will show that 51 per cent of exporters now had their price as a major constraint on their ability to sell abroad, the highest figure recorded apart from one occasion in 1972 (when the figure was 63) and one in 1975.

The difference between then and now is that both those surveys came just as the pound was about to be allowed to slide to restore competitiveness; now it is about to go up because of the rise in the pound's value and some by a fall in export volume and thus of output. These are some of the points which make the Treasury unhappy about what has happened, but did they have any choice?

It has been clear for some time that the goals being pursued by the authorities were in-

consistent. At the centre of these policies has been for some time the guideline that sterling M3 should rise by only 5 per cent to 13 per cent over the current financial year.

This target first emerged at the end of last year when the International Monetary Fund visited London, but events since then turned it into a much tighter policy than originally expected.

The monetary growth this year was expected to be an average of 10 per cent, but in fact money supply under the Government's target for 1976-77 by just under £2,000m.

In most countries where monetary targets have been applied for a long period of time by authorities who really believe in them, the targets are rolled over, so that extra leeway would have been left for monetary expansion this year to compensate for the 1976-77 undershoot.

In the United Kingdom the exact opposite has happened. Because the retail money stock at the beginning of the year was lower than expected, the permissible increase in money supply during 1977-78 was also lower. That was one element making the task of the authorities more difficult.

As monetary targets become accepted as a continuing central part of economic policy, there ought to be some serious thinking about the form which they take, with a switch to rolling monetary targets so that one year's undershoot does not lead to an unneeded tightening.

Such a switch is also desirable because the present system means that by the second half of the year the cards are stacked very heavily against the authorities in any particular month.

The fact that we are so far

into the year already meant that the Government could not really afford to experiment with one idea which does seem to have been considered, which was going above the 13 per cent guideline for a month or so and then allowing the outflows which would result to bring down the money supply.

For such a policy to have had even a chance of working it would have had to be continued for so long that the Government could not have been sure of bringing the money supply back within the guidelines.

More important than these problems of exactly what kind of money supply targets should be adopted have been the unexpected and unprecedented inflows. Money supply has two broad components: the domestic element of government borrowings from banks and private bank lending; and the external one of net inflows (which add to the money supply) or outflows which reduce it.

The domestic side of the equation has been far smaller this year than expected, as one revision downwards of govern-

ment borrowing has succeeded another, but the forecasts on the external side have been wildly out.

The current account was expected to be around £1,000m in deficit and will turn out to be in surplus (due to a combination of domestic sluggishness and good external performance). The capital account was expected to be in deficit of the order of about £1,000m this year, whereas it will turn out to be massive in surplus unless the hot money which has flowed in flows out.

No one should be too censorious about these mistakes. Many of those who have said in recent months that the pound was undervalued and that huge inflows were inevitable argued after the IMF visit that not enough had been done and that

they tried and which failed lower short-term interest rates to discourage money coming in and keep the yield high on long-term stock to encourage the money that does arrive to stay out of the money supply.

As so often in the past, the lesson of the failure of this policy is that the power of markets is such that governments must just do not have the staying power to outlast those speculating against them.

Now that the pound is rising, and likely to go even higher than its long-term equilibrium before it starts to fall again, we shall see how long the markets can endure uncertainty.

a new sterling crisis would break. The Treasury's concern to restore confidence at the start of the year was understandable.

But when it became clear in July that the major hurdle for sterling—the breakdown of talks on a formal income policy to replace phase two—had been successfully surmounted, the authorities were slow to realize that in order to pursue their goals they would have to shift the emphasis of policy.

They seem to have considered a whole range of options and rejected all of them at the end of the day as either unworkable or politically undesirable.

For a long time the front runner seemed to be at least a partial easing on movement of capital out of the country, to balance the flows in. This was rejected for two reasons.

One was a fear that as soon as restrictions were lifted there would be huge flows of long-term capital out of the country which would soon be followed by the hot money which had come in, provoking a sterling crisis all over again.

That, combined with the known opposition of the Labour Party to overseas investment seems to have been enough to kill the idea.

Restrictions on inflows do not seem to have been looked at as seriously. Technically they are messy and can be got round after a period of time, though by then the problem they are meant to cope with may have been resolved. The real objection seems to have been one of embarrassment: it looks very stupid to have controls to keep money out and to keep it in.

The other option for the Government was the one which they tried and which failed lower short-term interest rates to discourage money coming in and keep the yield high on long-term stock to encourage the money that does arrive to stay out of the money supply.

As so often in the past, the lesson of the failure of this policy is that the power of markets is such that governments must just do not have the staying power to outlast those speculating against them.

Preparing the ground for the two-week dole payout

Eric Wigham

In spite of Civil Service trade union criticism, the Department of Employment has been preparing the ground for the two-week dole payout for some time.

As the unions are joining with the department in monitoring the experiment, which takes the form of a pilot study at 36 offices in 18 areas scattered over the country.

When the DE first announced the plan, the unions representing most of the 20,000 staff involved the Civil and Public Services Association and the Society of Civil and Public Servants—jointly denounced the idea. It would not only be detrimental to the unemployed, they said, most of whom would have great difficulty in budgeting for two weeks at a time, but also the plan would threaten the jobs of their members and thus add to the number of unemployed served by the remaining staff.

That the unions nevertheless cooperating in the pilot study arises from a long struggle. As part of the general campaign by public service unions against the cuts, announced by the Government last July, the CPSSA took industrial action in the form of a ban on the collection of DE statistics, which lasted from last November to January. For a time unemployment and other figures were not available.

Large cash savings are certain. The payments are made by Giro cheques sent by post to the unemployed the day after they register. To have the postage and reduce the preparatory work for a large proportion of them could well save several million pounds.

Reductions among the staff are more problematical. The present weekly payments are made in arrears. So usually are fortnightly payments in other countries which have adopted the system. But in the British pilot scheme they are being made one week in arrears and one in advance.

If an unemployed person gets a job before the end of the second week, he is expected to pay back the surplus. This may happen quite innocently if the job is unexpected, and there have been a number of cases of people returning to work on their own initiative. But the temptation to hold on to it is strong especially since there is usually a wait of a week before the first pay packet is handed out. Much staff money may be taken up in investigating suspected cases of fraud.

Fortnightly payments have advantages as well as disadvantages for the recipients. The cost of travelling to the benefit office by public transport is halved. Some find registering distasteful and are pleased to have to do it infrequently as possible.

On the other hand, they may tend to look in less frequently at the unemployment office to inquire about

The Government reacted firmly, however, and the union found themselves faced with the possibility of a big political battle. But they decided they would not choose for a struggle. So they "suspended" the ban.

In the course of meetings with the unions, Mr Albert Booth, the Employment Secretary, said that the Government policy obliged the department to make cuts somewhere and suggested various possibilities. Of these, the payment of fortnightly benefits seemed to be the least of the evils.

Mr Booth promised a determined attempt to avoid any redundancies among staff handling benefits. No decision on the matter would be taken until Mr Booth had considered the report of a joint working party on the pilot study after the experiment had run three months.

Eventually the joint working party was set up. Now an official and staff representative together are visiting all the offices taking part in the experiment.

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new job openings, particularly if the employment centre and benefit office are in the same building, as many of them are. But the present computer-based job-finding arrangements may be able to let people know when a suitable vacancy is reported and random inquiries may distract the staff from this systematic work.

Accompanied working party representatives in a pilot scheme benefit office at Stepney, where it is divided from the employment centre only by a long passage.

Stepney is in an area where many of the unemployed are "hinterlands" staying at local lodging houses, and many others are merchant seamen, neither group suitable for fortnightly payments. The area covered is a compact one, so that fares to the office are not an important factor. One or two of those whom I spoke travel to the office in their cars.

If recipients ask to go back to work, they are allowed to do so, but not one in a hundred has made the request. Most of them probably do not know that they can and regard the change as one of those unaccountable official aberrations which have to be accepted and made the best of.

Labour difficulties at the local post office caused delays in the arrival of the Giro cheques on one occasion so that some were not there in time for the weekend shopping and

angry unemployed gathered in the office to complain. But generally the mechanism of the new system has worked smoothly.

One gain is to relieve pressure on those offices where the growth of unemployment has resulted in congestion. There was ample space and no queues at Stepney when I was at the office.

There is still a possibility of a revival of the controversy over the plan. The unions have said they will submit a separate report from that of the working party if necessary and some CPSSA branches have declared they will not implement the scheme if it is introduced nationally.

But while some Civil Service trade unions make the view that they are entitled to fight against Government policies which they think are mistaken and are against the interests of their members, others hold that in the end they have a duty to accept the decisions of the elected government of the day, however ill-advised, and to operate them to the best of their ability.

However, it is unlikely a national scheme will be introduced before September next year. There will be detailed consultations about the working party has reported, and the views of social welfare departments taken into consideration and some minor legislation will have to go through Parliament.

Business Diary: Hyde and seek • Reynolds' return

Bill Hyde, the chief accountant of Oxford University, is perhaps unlikely fellow to chair a committee whose job it is to produce clear and simple guidelines for inflation accounting—but his acquaintance with practical matters began early.

Hyde is chairman of the sub-committee of the Accounting Standards Committee which is about to publish inflation accounting guidelines following his rejection last July of more complex proposals produced by Douglas Murreth's Inflation Accounting Steering Group.

The proposals of Murreth, a chief partner of accountants Pricewaterhouse, were turned down by the Institute of Chartered Accountants as so complex as to be unworkable.

It has fallen to Hyde, who started as an office boy with the old Liverpool Gas Company and qualified in his spare time, to produce simpler proposals. They will cover much the same ground—cost of sales, additional appreciation and effects of inflation on debt—but will be supplementary to rather than a replacement of historic accounts. He acknowledges the debt to Murreth and told *Business Diary* yesterday: "I feel a bit of a fraud. I have been chairman of a straightforward working party which did not have to do any fundamental work—this was already done by the Murreth committee. It was all there."

This will be Hyde's first big job into the limelight, though at the heart of the



Bill Hyde in Oxford yesterday: deflating inflation accounting proposals.

university's establishment and responsible for the books of an organization employing thousands and having a turnover of £30m a year, only in the last year or so has he even become a public figure at Oxford by taking up a fellowship at Linacre College.

Michael Reynolds, who departed from the chairmanship and managing directorship of Spar (UK) in July after a row and was last seen heading for Taiwan is back in London and in business.

After years of working for big organizations (British Home Stores as well as Spar),

Reynolds, who prides himself as a negotiator, is setting up shop on his own.

"I had several attractive offers when I left Spar," he told *Business Diary* yesterday, "and I gave them all very careful consideration. I decided finally, however, that what talents I have would be better employed, and I would, personally, find it more stimulating, dealing with a variety of companies."

Reynolds put up his plate yesterday at the offices of Robin Marlar, the former Sussex cricket captain-turned headhunter—and aims to help not only retailers but also the manufacturers against whom he pitted his wits for so long.

"Food and non-food suppliers spend a lot of money with the major retail outlets on such things as 'key money', product handling, and overriding discounts and it could be said that over the past couple of decades I have been responsible for extracting a lot of that cash from them," he says.

There are ways, Reynolds believes, in which the manufacturer could make less of this below-the-line money work harder for him, adding hastily that this would be to the benefit of the retailer as well.

Reynolds is already putting his theories into practice on a variety of fronts. He is helping Pearce Duff export their beef cubes and advising Vickers, the Dutch suppliers of Chinese processed foods, who want to move into the United Kingdom.

He is also working for Italconserv, the continental canned goods company, who want to develop an own-label range for British distributors as well as Spar Germany.

Reynolds claims access to anybody who is in a body in the retail trade in Europe. For four years he was chairman of Inter Group Trading, an international group marketing in Spar shops.

Seventy-seven Miss World finalists should be enough to draw even the most jaded of City people back to their particular part of London for the Lord Mayor's Show on Saturday week.

As a foretaste, Miss United States, Miss Australia, Miss Liberia and Miss Venezuela were among those at the preview of the procession given by the Lord Mayor elect, Air Commodore Peter Vaneck, at the Fishmongers' Hall, yesterday.

All 77 will ride by on the day in two open-topped buses. Competing for attention with the advance guard and Vaneck yesterday were Walt Disney characters including two mice, a dragon-fly and an albatross about eight feet high.

If the entertainment value of this year's procession will be high, it has a serious theme—Service and the City—Vaneck says.

He has strong links with two of the armed forces, serving as a regular in the Royal Navy during the war and sub-

sequently in the Royal Auxiliary Air Force, of which he became honorary inspector general with the rank of honorary Air Commodore. Part of his procession will therefore be devoted to the defence services.

Some of the aircraft Vaneck learnt to fly, including the Seafire, the sea-going version of the Spitfire and the Sea Fury, will feature in the procession along with the latest aircraft weapons systems.

Flying overhead will be Nimrod and Meteor aircraft. Vaneck, now a senior partner in stockbrokers Rowe Phipps, flew a Meteor in an aerobatic team, and has the Air Force Cross.

Another feature of the show will be a flypast of six light aircraft of the Tiger Club, of which he is a member.

In all there are 47 floats in the show, and 18 bands, mostly from the services. There will be 2,500 people taking part in the show, with the procession about 3,000 yards long, taking 33 minutes to pass.

The themes for the annual show, which is primarily intended for those who live in, work in, or identify with the City, are chosen by the Lord Mayor and usually reflect his personal as well as City interests.

Mercedes Benz UK will shortly be announcing a promotion as part of a reorganization of its sales and marketing

set-up. Hans Tauscher, 45, the present general manager of the commercial vehicle division will join the board as director of operations. It will be his job to establish a network of regional offices handling both commercial and cars.

Until now Mercedes has kept the two quite separate because it feared that the profitable car business would suffer if too closely allied to the newer and struggling trucks and vans.

With the parent Daimler-Benz committed to a £1,500m expansion and with their commercials well established in Britain, the company wants to make better use of available management talent.

Tauscher left East Germany as an 18-year-old. He is not happy about giving details because those who helped him could still get into trouble. "Let's just say I came out before they really sealed the border."

He came to Britain in 1968 to work for the newly created Ford of Europe and met his English wife, Eileen, at Ford's Warley headquarters. Today he is described by colleagues as "more English than the English"—he even thinks in English.

Anybody know of a company with a longer life than this Algerian one—Société Nationale pour la Recherche, la Production, la Transformation et la Commercialisation des Hydrocarbures?

KINGSTON UPON HULL CITY COUNCIL SAYS...

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Standard Oil Company (an Indiana corporation)

3 1/2% Debentures Due 1988

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of December 2, 1974 between Standard Oil Company (an Indiana corporation) and The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as Trustee, \$900,000 in aggregate principal amount of the above-captioned Debentures will be redeemed for the sinking fund on December 1, 1977 at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to December 1, 1977.

The numbers of the Debentures to be redeemed are as follows:

40	2461	8216	7558	8882	12012	14811	18800	19044	21477	23551	25684	28491	30615	33103
55	2682	8224	7603	8883	12078	14841	18818	19073	21801	23322	25749	28627	30682	33109
70	2839	8238	7639	8957	12078	14851	18899	19092	21883	23427	25758	28601	30720	33125
85	2988	8295	7653	8980	12118	14890	18905	19103	21889	23448	25776	28613	30731	33132
100	3134	8308	7741	9031	12131	15138	19177	19099	21886	23462	25794	28633	30754	33150
115	3289	8327	7815	9124	12248	15003	19070	19101	21741	23470	25815	28638	30765	33224
130	3441	8346	7901	9183	12320	15101	19124	19140	21842	23483	25829	28642	30775	33243
145	3591	8400	7949	9273	12335	15205	19145	19286	21816	23527	25934	28757	30937	33307
160	3741	8432	7989	9312	12388	15103	19186	19447	21827	23582	26004	28767	30955	33324
175	3890	8446	7991	9352	12430	15191	19294	19440	21842	23633	26029	28813	30987	33353
190	4039	8448	7987	9384	12431	15213	19296	19490	21855	23657	26078	28841	30999	33403
205	4189	8482	8007	9373	12432	15289	19305	19491	21880	23684	26102	28843	31007	33426
220	4338	8515	8035	9376	12483	15415	19315	19495	21934	23764	26180	28963	31029	33477
235	4487	8522	8030	9376	12483	15425	19341	19524	21934	23824	26234	28986	31060	33446
250	4636	8567	8334	9381	12568	15432	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
265	4785	8588	8359	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
280	4934	8609	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
295	5083	8629	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
310	5232	8649	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
325	5381	8669	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
340	5530	8689	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
355	5679	8709	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
370	5828	8729	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
385	5977	8749	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
400	6126	8769	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
415	6275	8789	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
430	6424	8809	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
445	6573	8829	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
460	6722	8849	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
475	6871	8869	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
490	7020	8889	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
505	7169	8909	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
520	7318	8929	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
535	7467	8949	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
550	7616	8969	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
565	7765	8989	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
580	7914	9009	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
595	8063	9029	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
610	8212	9049	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
625	8361	9069	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
640	8510	9089	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
655	8659	9109	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
670	8808	9129	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
685	8957	9149	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
700	9106	9169	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
715	9255	9189	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
730	9404	9209	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
745	9553	9229	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
760	9702	9249	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
775	9851	9269	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
790	10000	9289	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
805	10149	9309	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
820	10298	9329	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
835	10447	9349	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
850	10596	9369	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
865	10745	9389	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
880	10894	9409	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
895	11043	9429	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
910	11192	9449	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
925	11341	9469	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
940	11490	9489	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
955	11639	9509	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
970	11788	9529	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
985	11937	9549	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1000	12086	9569	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1015	12235	9589	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1030	12384	9609	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1045	12533	9629	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1060	12682	9649	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1075	12831	9669	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1090	12980	9689	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1105	13129	9709	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1120	13278	9729	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1135	13427	9749	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1150	13576	9769	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1165	13725	9789	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1180	13874	9809	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1195	14023	9829	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1210	14172	9849	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1225	14321	9869	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1240	14470	9889	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287	28981	31067	33503
1255	14619	9909	8378	9381	12568	15438	19383	19583	21983	23893	26287			

MALAYALAM PLANTATIONS
LIMITEDIssued Capital ... £2,718,032 in 10p shares
Secretaries and Agents
Harrisons & Crosfield, Limited

PROFIT AND DIVIDEND		Year ended	
		31.3.77	31.3.76
Remittances from India	£102,433	£118,812	
Profit earned in the U.K.	136,365	74,521	
Taxation	£238,798	£293,333	
	89,406	198,187	
Transfer from General Reserve	£149,392	£257,146	
Dividends for year (1.15p per share)	£150,000	£200,000	
	£312,574	£397,512	

CROPS HARVESTED		Year ended	
		31.3.77	31.3.76
Tea—kg.	12,237,600	10,666,700	
Rubber—kg.	7,201,700	6,828,700	

PLANTED ACREAGE
Tea and Rubber—40,190 acres

Annual General Meeting—24th November 1977

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

Stock markets

Bear closers keep index above 500

Faced with the major government decision to let sterling rise shares fully vindicated the chartists' case by finding support at around 500 on the FT index after suffering an early slump.

Though this early reaction was the reverse of that which occurred when a similar move was made at the end of July most were not surprised because of the adverse effect on the major exporting companies of a firmer pound.

Set against an already indifferent outlook for corporate profits in general, the move brought a heavy bout of early selling and by 1 pm the FT index was 12.4 lower at 496.9. But thereafter a combination of

"bear" closing and bargain hunting lifted prices over a broad front and by the close the index was just 3.8 off at 505.5.

While a firmer pound is likely to lower interest rates the general implications of the move are far more favourable for the gilt-edged market and this was reflected in a strong performance.

The move goes a long way towards resolving the fixed-interest market's doubts over

First thoughts about Chloride Group recovering strongly from its long strike are giving way to second ones. There is now an impression that the strike hurt, and that the group will this year to March 31 next be hard put to it to match the £26.4m of profits made the year before. The shares have weakened from 12½ at the beginning of September to 10½ now, but "cheap buyers" are inclined to hold off until the interim bulletin next month is out.

The money supply and though a little off the top as profits were taken long dates closed with gains of up to a point and three quarters. A largely neglected shorter end was mostly at around overnight levels.

Because of their high content of overseas earnings insurance shares did not join in the afternoon rally. Among the worst bit were brokers CE Heath, off 13p to 22p, Alexander Howden 11p to 15p, Willis Faber 10p to 28p, Sedwick Forbes 8p to 31p and Hogg Robinson which dipped 7p to 16p.

The composites did not escape the trend with Guardian Royal

Exchange lower by 6p to 354p, Sun Alliance off 5p to 620p and Royal down 4p to 434p.

Major exporters to lose ground included Becton, down 10p to 637p, Unilever 12p to 572p, BAT Industries 12p to 285p and BSR which slipped 10p to 106p.

In the food sector Rowntree, another exporter, dipped 5p to 420p, while elsewhere in that sector George Basset rose 2p to 140p on favourable comment and for the reverse reason Thos Berwick dropped 9p to 81p. Tate & Lyle continued to lose ground after the price of sugar and shed another 6p for a close at 200p.

Takeover activity featured coin dealer Spink & Son, which jumped to 306p at one stage on last week's news that more than one party might be interested in a takeover. The shares closed 13p to the good at 298p. Graham Wood attracted speculative support rising 11p to 56p while Evode was another in demand finishing 14p ahead at 85p.

In electronics United Scientific soared 16p to 245p on a dividend burst, boosting rights issue and Electrocomponents firmed 3p to 298p after figures. Exporter Thorn, however, had an unhappy time losing 12p to 42p. An adverse circular bit shipping shares with British & Commonwealth losing 6p to 280p, P & O 3p to 116p, James Fisher 8p to 122p, Ocean Transport 4p to 129p and Hunting Glass 5p to 235p. Stocks generally lost ground with typical performances coming from Cus "A", down 6p to 332p and Mothercare 4p to 204p. But Hepworth rose 3p to 69p after the capital plans gave rise to talk of a takeover.

Though the fall in interest rates may be over property shares

held up well. Interest-bearing gained 2p to 34½p after 36p on news of deals in France while continuing takeover hopes had Peachey 6½p to the good at 82p after a late run.

Building issues had to contend also with the continuing disappointment with last week's Government help. Particularly hard hit were Taylor Woodrow, off 14p to 466p, and Costain where the drop was 5p to 290p. After below par figures March-way closed 8p off at 278p. There was a mixed showing from clearing banks but elsewhere in financial Glaxo Securities rose 13p to 265p on demand in a thin market.

After hours Graham Wood, already strong, gained more ground on news of an approach while Redfern reversed an

Up 20p to 150p in the last two trading days has gone Walford Electric. Though the market is small demand has been persistent and sellers hard to find. The word is that current trading is very strong and benefiting from a strong export content. There was no specific talk of a bid though some would not discount it altogether.

early 3p rise when it was learned that there might be a third possible contender. York Trailer rose 6p to 76p on nine-month figures and a scrip. Equity turnover on October 28 was £10.2m (18.45 bargains). According to Exchange Telegraph active stocks yesterday were ICI, Shell, BAT Inds, Becton, Distillers, P & O, BP, Cus "A", Grand Metropolitan, GKN, Unipol, Imperial Chemical, Spink & Son, De Beers, Mills & Allen, United Scientifics, CE Heath and Orme Developments.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profits	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int. of Fin	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
R. H. Cole (I)	12.5(8.1)	0.78(0.34)	—	1.68(1.5)	12/12	—(3.3)
Ch. Int. Inv (I)	—	0.06(0.06)	—	—	—	—(12.3)
Electronics (I)	15.2(5.8)	3.2(1.5)	—	2.4(2.2)	30/11	2.4(1.9)
Foodstuffs (I)	—	0.51(0.43)	—	1.4(1.0)	7/12	0.50(0.5)
R. Goodwin (I)	3.7(3.1)	0.40(0.28)	2.23(1.84)	—	15/12	2.2(1.5)
Graig Shipping (I)	—	0.39(0.24b)	—	4.0(5.0)	—	—(2.8)
Marchal (I)	5.6(5.7)	0.3(0.69)	—	—	30/12	—
McNeil (I)	—	—	—	—	29/12	108(100)
Preston Mines (I)	—	—	—	—	20/12	—(6.5)
Rio Algom (I)	4.3(4.3)	0.4(0.18)	5.7(5.2)	—	—	—(2.75)
Silencers (I)	—	1.7(3.34d)	4.32(8.94d)	—	—	—
Sorce (I)	—	0.17(0.22)	3.49(4.68)	—	—	—
Unilever (I)	5.4(5.4)	—	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.515. Profits are shown pre-tax and earnings are net. a Forecast. b Loss. c Rands. d For 15 months.

Utd Scientific's £2m US takeover

By Victor Felstead

With plans for a £1.7m rights issue, comes the news that United Scientific Holdings is to make a major takeover in the United States. The shares jumped by 16p to 243p yesterday.

United has signed a conditional contract with the principal shareholders in Optic Electronic Corporation of Dallas to buy "not less than 80 per cent" of Optic's capital.

Under the terms, United will buy the shares at an estimated price of US \$12.15 a share, which is variable within the range \$11 to \$13.30, depending on the final audited figures for the half-year to September 30 last.

The total price is expected to be in the region of \$1m, which is about £2m—depending on the percentage bought.

The importance of this takeover can be judged from the fact that Optic's main customer is the United States Defence Department, which accounts for over 90 per cent of the order book.

It designs and manufactures optical and mechanical fire control equipment for tanks, self-propelled artillery and guided missiles.

Optic is also the largest inte-



Mr John Robertshaw, chairman.

grated electro-optical manufacturing facility in the United States, supporting the military, navigation, guidance and fire control market at both Government, prime and first sub-contractor level.

It is the main contractor for fire control equipment for the M60 tank, the United States main battle tank.

Mr. United States concern's pre-tax profits are about \$1m annually and assets are \$1.9m.

Mr Peter Levene, United's managing director, said the two companies together were probably the largest of their type in the world. The potential in export markets was "just enormous".

United's board will recommend shareholders to grant an option to executive directors of Optic on 160,000 United shares—about 2 per cent of the US subsidiary's equity. The price will be 135 per cent of the market price of United's shares immediately before the announcement of the takeover.

United's issue will be at 165p a share on the basis of one share for every eight held. The share for every eight held. The share for every eight held. The share for every eight held.

United has established a position as a major supplier to overseas governments for optical fire control instruments.

The ownership of a manufacturing facility in the United States will go a long way to help in the acceptance of equipment of United's design and manufacture in that country.

Stock Exchange calls a halt on dealings of Carborundum

A temporary suspension on the dealings of the Carborundum Company of America at 3.10 pm in London yesterday pending the lifting of the trading halt on the New York Stock Exchange.

The group produces a variety of materials and equipment in four categories, principally abrasives. It has received a formal proposal offering to purchase any or all of the outstanding shares of the company.

The board is now considering the proposal. It is expected that an announcement of the board's decision will be made in the next few days.

The group declined to reveal the name of the company involved, or details of the proposal.

Earlier this year, Carborundum announced that it had acquired more than 30 per cent of the shares tendered by Weyburn Engineering Company. The group has plants in Britain, United States and West Germany.

In the first half of this year, Peugeot-Citroën, the French car manufacturers showed a provisional net profit of \$4m francs (about £6m).

There is no comparison as the group was set up last year. The results of the first half of 1976 Peugeot SA reported profits of 113.8m francs and Citroën SA 2.88m.

1976 period, even when expressed in Swiss francs, but gave no figures. Results overall were satisfactory, the company said, in a statement after its annual meeting. For the year to June 30 the company is paying a 15 Swiss franc dividend against 14 francs in the previous year out of net profits of 37.5m Swiss francs (about £8m) against 30.72m francs.

Rio Algom ahead
Rio Algom, the 51 per cent owned Canadian subsidiary of the United Kingdom mining house Rio Tinto-Zinc, increased consolidated net earnings in the third quarter of the year by 14 per cent from C\$7.97m to \$9.07m. Profits for the nine months to the end of September have risen by 41 per cent to \$34.3m. A dividend of 54 cents a share has been declared.

Swiss Bank Corp
Swiss Bank Corporation says that its balance sheet rose by 3.5 per cent in the third quarter to \$5,600m Swiss francs (about £13,500m) from \$5,370m Swiss francs in the previous quarter. The bank, one of Switzerland's big three, said that customers' deposits rose 2.9 per cent in the third quarter to record 29,900m francs from 29,000m. Total advances to customers rose by 3 per cent

to 20,000m francs from 19,500m. The total due from banks rose 6.1 per cent to 26,000m francs.

Lockheed exports
Half of the Lockheed Corporation's order book, worth \$4,000m (about £2,352m) is for overseas customers and only 43 per cent for the United States government. The other 17 per cent goes to American commercial customers. This is revealed in the company's third quarter results for the year to September 25 which produced net earnings of \$21.9m compared to \$9.1m in the same quarter last year. Total net earnings for the first nine months were \$47.4m (\$31.3m). Increased profits were attributed principally to increased sales and profits on the C-130 Hercules transport (major parts of which are produced by British Aerospace at Prestwick), the Trident submarine-launched ballistic missile and several overseas service contracts.

Hudson Bay Mining
Hudson Bay Mining and Smelting, part of the Anglo American Corporation of South Africa operations in Canada, has passed its quarterly dividend following a third quarter loss of C\$2.38m compared with a restated loss of \$1.64m in the same period last year. The loss has reduced the net earnings for the nine months to the end of September to \$50.1m compared with a restated \$32.6m last year. Losses on the base metals side and, to a lesser extent, in fertilizer offset profits from the industrial interests and oil and gas.

GRAMPIAN REGIONAL
COUNCILISSUE OF
£10,000,000 GRAMPIAN
REGIONAL COUNCIL

10½ per cent. Redeemable Stock, 1985

Authorised by the Grampian Regional Council and issued in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1975, and the Local Authority Stocks and Bonds (Scotland) Regulations, 1976.

Price of Issue £99 per cent.

PAYABLE AS FOLLOWS:

On Application	1977	£10 per cent.
On 28th September, 1977		£10 per cent.
On 14th February, 1978		£89 per cent.

Interest (less income tax) will be payable half-yearly on 1st March and 1st September. First payment of £400,000 (less income tax) per £100 Stock will be made on 1st March, 1978.

The Stock is an investment falling within Part II of the First Schedule to the Companies Act, 1967.

In accordance with Regulations passed by the Grampian Regional Council on 18th September 1977, the Council has authorised the issue of £10,000,000 Redeemable Stock, 10½ per cent, to be issued in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government (Scotland) Act, 1975, and the Local Authority Stocks and Bonds (Scotland) Regulations, 1976.

1. Security. The Stock and the interest thereon will be secured upon the whole funds, rates and revenues of the Council and will rank pari passu with the existing debt of the Council.

2. Provision for Redemption of Loans.—The Regional Council is required by Act of the Scottish Parliament to make annual provision towards redemption of loans raised for capital expenditure.

3. Redemption.—The Stock will be redeemed at par on 30th September, 1985, by the Council. The redemption of the Stock will be by instalments of £100,000 each, the first instalment being payable on 30th September, 1978.

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IMI means more than metal

IMI is a remarkable group of companies built by developing related interests and skills. Each company is free to pursue its own course for profit, both in the United Kingdom and overseas. Each company's progress is supported by IMI's corporate resources. Hence the impressive growth of the group as a whole. The facts speak for themselves: 1966 turnover £69 million (IMI's first year as a public company). 1976 turnover £404 million.

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REFINED AND WROUGHT METALS

IMPERIAL METAL INDUSTRIES LIMITED · BIRMINGHAM · ENGLAND

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INTERIM STATEMENT

The results for the half year to 30 September 1977 are—	Half Year to 30 Sept. 77 (unaudited)	Half Year to 30 Sept. 76 (audited)	Full Year to 31 March 77 (audited)
External sales	15,225	9,600	22,849
Profit before taxation	3,268	1,588	4,537
Corporation tax at 52%	1,594	826	2,383
Profit after taxation	1,564	762	2,174

TRADING RESULTS AND PROSPECTS

The sales increase achieved in the second half of 1976/77 has continued and comparison of the first six months of this financial year with the same period in 1976 reflects an increase of 59%. Whilst the net profit increase is very substantial, it should be borne in mind that, in the first part of 1976, sales prices were held down to absorb the excess profit margin. In terms of the Price Code, brought forward from 1975/76. Business in the Group's distribution companies continues very buoyant and the Board is encouraged by the progress achieved in the new company, Electrospares, which began trading last August. Whilst the situation at Reading Windings is still cause for concern, the further steps taken to increase efficiency appear to be taking effect.

The Board is confident that the full year's results will show a continuation of the Group's progress achieved over the last few years.

TAXATION PROVISION
Although Corporation Tax has been provided for at 52% in this interim statement, the accounts for the full 1977/78 financial year will anticipate the pending Standard on Deferred Taxation, and the effective tax rate will accordingly be lower.

DIVIDEND
At a Board Meeting held on 31st October, 1977, the Directors declared an interim dividend of 2.4p per Ordinary Share, absorbing £240,000. This compares with an interim dividend in 1976 of 2p per share. Dividend warrants will be posted on 8th January, 1978 to members on the Register at 5th December, 1977.

Britain's biggest electronic components distributor

ACCOUNT DAYS : Dealings-Began, Oct 31. Dealings End, Nov 11. § Contango Day, Nov 14. Settlement Day, Nov 23
§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days

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PERSONAL COLUMNS

ALSO ON PAGE 27

URGENT—

Are there any kind friends willing to make short-term, interest-free loans to enable the Marie Curie Memorial Foundation to finance the capital outlay on its two new homes for over 100 of the most sadly distressed cancer sufferers? Guaranteed repayment at 6, 12 or 24 months, or on 7 days' notice.

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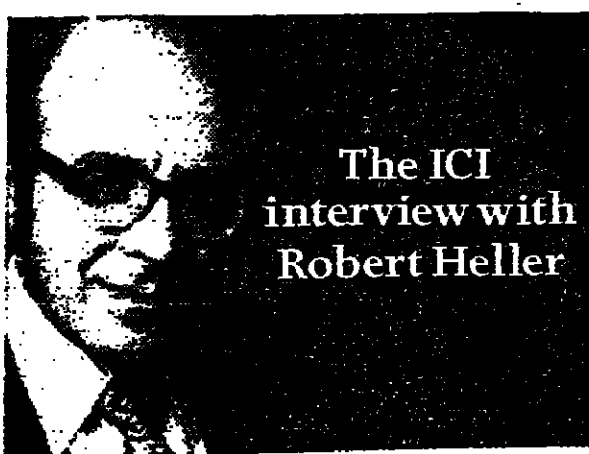
15/11/77



Scientists from ICI's Brixham Laboratory take samples from an estuary

'It's our belief that the environment should be free from hazard and pleasant to live in.'

Philip Chipperfield, ICI



The ICI interview with Robert Heller

Environmental pollution has become a "cause celebre" in recent years. There have been some visible improvements - the air in our cities is measurably cleaner. But what about other, less obvious types of pollution? To find out how ICI is tackling one aspect of the problem, Robert Heller questioned Philip Chipperfield, Head of ICI's Brixham Laboratory, one of the world's leading authorities on dealing with water pollution.

Heller: To many men in the street, the industrial company is seen as a kind of blundering, selfish oaf who given half a chance would have the entire planet polluted.

Chipperfield: That's really an illogical idea when you come to examine it... after all, industry consists of ordinary people who share, with the public at large, a growing awareness of the need to preserve the natural order of things. Dealing with pollution involves a strong element of self-preservation which some conservationists don't I think, appreciate.

Heller: But accidents can still happen - either from ignorance or sheer mishap.

Chipperfield: Of course. But one of the things I've seen develop over the years, not only within ICI, but with all major chemical companies, is a much greater awareness by all people in a plant of the hazards involved, and of the importance of following the correct procedures.

Heller: To avoid prosecution?

Chipperfield: More than that - social responsibility is involved, as well as the law and economics. In fact, industry's record in Britain is pretty good and certainly at least equal to any other country.

Heller: How can one measure the reduction of pollution?

Chipperfield: Over the past seven to eight years there has been a constant improvement - at the present time over 86% of the 17,000 miles of rivers in England and Wales are classified by the Department of the Environment in the two top classes of purity and less than 4% are considered badly polluted.



Dr. Philip Chipperfield. "In Britain our anti-pollution record is pretty good."

Heller: Let's get down to specifics. What exactly do you do here at Brixham?

Chipperfield: For many years ICI was the only company actively involved in the whole field of water pollution research. We began in the early 1950's. Our main job is to provide all parts of the company with a comprehensive advisory and investigatory service on the treatment and disposal of liquid wastes and related problems. This involves hydrographical, biological and chemical surveys of the discharges of effluents into rivers, estuaries and coastal waters - using our own mini-hovercraft and diving team when necessary. Then there is the detailed lab work - investigating the possible effects of effluent and chemical products on fish, or sewage treatment processes, for instance.

Heller: What other things do you do?

Chipperfield: We also supply an external consultancy and information service to other industries, consulting engineers, water authorities and so on. And we work closely with national and international trade associations and with government departments.

Heller: Has legislation added vastly to the costs of constructing chemical plants in this country?

Chipperfield: Effluent treatment and disposal, in terms of overall capital cost, can range from under 2% to 15% of a particular investment. But it's very difficult to disentangle the direct effect of legislation from the belief, certainly in ICI, that the environment should be free from hazard and pleasant to live and work in. Clearly, it is no more desirable or necessary to live in filth and squalor industrially than in the home.

Heller: Is there any new treatment technique that has been developed recently in the laboratory, which enables you to do things you couldn't do before?

Chipperfield: Well, our principal contribution to biological treatment we call Floccor. Basically it's a

kind of corrugated plastic, which the effluent flows over; the plastic holds a film of bacteria in contact with the water flowing over it. These bacteria take in oxygen and oxidise the effluent as food, producing water and carbon dioxide. Distilleries, breweries, food industries, organic chemicals industries use it.



Brixham provides a comprehensive advisory and investigatory service on the treatment of liquid waste.

Heller: Has your work here at Brixham become in a sense easier today? Presumably most of the problems you see have been answered before in some way?

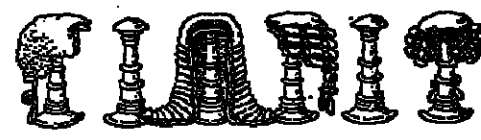
Chipperfield: While there's still much to do, we in Britain can be reasonably well satisfied with what's happened so far. It's now a question of constant improvement.

Ideas in action





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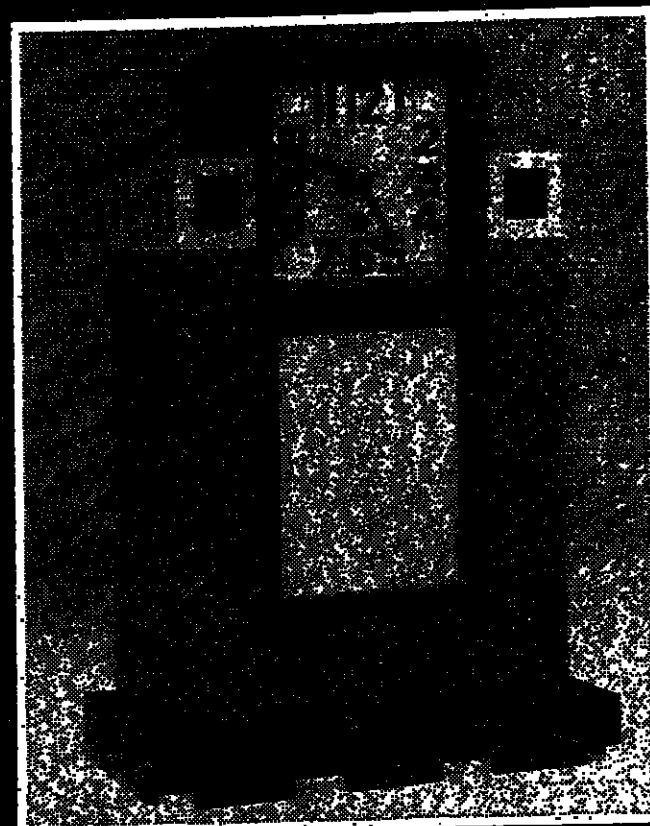
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If the European Community is not to stagnate it must mobilize popular support

Consumers must be given a voice inside the councils of the EEC

Measures designed to facilitate movement of goods across national frontiers often work to the consumer's detriment by reducing the range of choice

One of the most persistent criticisms of the European Economic Community is that it acts as a giant producers' cartel. And it is true that, despite the efforts of the past few years, the voice of the consumer is still far too weak in Brussels.

The founding fathers of the EEC would not have understood this criticism. Surely, they would have said, the mere creation of a common European market would ensure that the forces of competition would work to the consumer's benefit, breaking up national cartels and guaranteeing efficient and customer-oriented firms bigger outlets.

We know now that life is not so simple. If he is to exercise his rights, the consumer needs more information than the market sometimes gives him. Paradoxically, harmonization measures designed to facilitate the movement of goods across national frontiers often work to the consumer's detriment, by imposing standardization and reducing the range of choice.

Who feels enthused by "Eurobread" or "Eurobeer"? Moreover, the most important area of Community intervention in the market—the Common Agricultural Policy—is one where the voice of the consumer has until recently been virtually absent. Food prices throughout the EEC are determined by ministers whose collective interest is to protect the incomes of farmers. Only in the United Kingdom does the agriculture minister have the interests of the food consumer written into his brief: and not all British farm ministers have taken that part of their responsibilities too seriously hitherto (though Mr Silkin may be an exception).

Again, if one looks at the resources within the Commission devoted to consumer protection against those devoted to producers' interests, the disparity is evident. Consumer affairs are dealt with as part of the modestly-staffed Environment and Consumer Protection Service, and the number of administrative staff involved is in single figures. This is minute compared to the large numbers employed in the directorates-general for Agriculture or the Internal Market and Industrial Affairs.

Similarly, in the Economic and Social Committee—the main consultative body on EEC policy—two thirds of the seats are held by representatives of trade unions or employers' organizations, while the consumer representatives have to share their quota of seats in the third block with a wide range of other groups such as teachers, local government, the professions and farmers.

It has to be said, however, that one main reason for this discrepancy is the weakness of the consumer organizations themselves throughout Europe, compared for example with the trade union and employers' groups. It is only in the past few years that the different national consumer groups in the EEC have combined to establish an effective Brussels office, and it is still modestly staffed.

Community. Eirlys Roberts, the British director of BEUC, who is about to retire, has been a doughty fighter on behalf of consumers in the corridors of power in Brussels.

But it has been, and remains, a battle against heavy odds. Merely to keep track of the vast number of directives and proposals affecting the consumer which are mulling around in the Brussels machine requires more resources than currently exist in BEUC; and for effective representation of consumer interests in such sensitive areas as the Common Agricultural Policy or harmonization of standards of industrial products, present resources are manifestly inadequate.

In fact, the present is a good time to review these resources, for a number of reasons. First, some encouraging noises have been coming out of the Commission itself.

The Commissioner for Agriculture, Mr Finn Gundelach, has called for a bigger contribution from consumers to the debate on the EEC's agricultural objectives, and for positive suggestions for the reform of the Common Agricultural Policy. The British Commissioner for

the Budget, Mr Christopher Tugendhat, has spoken in the same vein.

It is important that Europe's consumer organizations should be able to respond to these invitations—for they have not been all that frequent in the past. It is important, too, that the Commission be pressed to fill up the vacancies which still exist in the Consumer Protection Directorate, and that new life be instilled into the Consumer Consultative Committee, which the Commission appointed to advise it in October 1973.

It must now be clear to everybody that if the EEC is to do more than stagnate, it must mobilize political support and enthusiasm among Europe's peoples.

That requires far more sensitivity to the wishes and interests of consumers. It must also be obvious that inflation is among the greatest evils and weaknesses in our society at the present time. If the European Community is not seen to be fighting against inflation, it will not command the respect, sympathy and support for its other objectives.

This has obvious and immediate implications for the

future of the Common Agricultural Policy, which is seen, rightly or wrongly, as one of the main causes of European inflation today.

The Commission, as Mr Gundelach is clearly aware, will ignore these factors at its peril.

The Institute of Europe's leaders, back at the end of 1972, to try to broaden the appeal of the Community by embarking on new initiatives in the field of social policy, regional development, environment and consumer protection, was plainly right. The tragedy is that so many of these initiatives have been stifled by political timidity or obstruction, and that their impact has been over-shadowed by the growth of unemployment and inflation.

Thus the regional development fund was too long delayed, and when it arrived it was too small for its task. The social action programme has petered out, and has not been replaced. The programmes for environmental and consumer protection make slow progress, and in each case seem to have fallen victim at least in some cases to the Commission's besetting sin of excessive legalism in matters of human welfare.

This is particularly true of consumer protection. Lacking clear political leadership, Commission officials have tended to promote harmonization for its own sake, regardless of the harm to consumers of the proposal. Too much of the time and energies of the small groups of people concerned, both inside and outside the Commission, have therefore been wasted on trivia.

What is needed now, therefore, is a movement away from the negative concept of con-

sumer protection to that of active promotion of consumer interests; a greater infusion of consumer thinking into other areas of Community policy; a firm decision on the consumer priorities to be pursued—particularly as regards the reform of the CAP; and the provision of adequate resources, both inside and outside the Commission, to ensure that these objectives can be met.

These are not impossible tasks. The groundwork for an effective EEC consumer policy has been laid during the past few years. The institutions exist. There is a much greater degree of understanding and goodwill, not least on the Commission itself, than in the past.

Consumer organizations themselves, despite their weaknesses, are beginning to understand each other better and to work more easily together. In the United Kingdom at least, though not in all EEC countries, there is effective ministerial responsibility for consumer interests.

If we could remember that consumers are people, and not legal abstractions; that the object of economic activity is to maximize consumer satisfaction; that the institutions of the EEC exist for the peoples of Europe; that all those concerned in consumer affairs have a common objective, and not sectional interest, to promote; then, I believe, we might actually get somewhere. I also believe that where we go in this field is of some importance to the future, not only of Europe, but of civilization.

Michael Shanks

The author is the newly appointed chairman of the National Consumer Council.

'No hope' if Russia stifles the human rights movement



Dr Turchin: the West must act

Dr Valentia Turchin is the most recent of the many distinguished Soviet dissidents to arrive unwillingly in the West. He was told that he could go to prison or Israel. He has been in London before going on to a job in the United States. He is a nuclear physicist and a friend of Dr Sakharov, and he was chairman of the Soviet group of Amnesty International.

His trouble started back in 1963 after he wrote a paper called *The Inertia of Fear* which circulated in the underground. *Sunday* (Nov. 27) as a book it is appearing in New York. In 1970 he signed a joint letter to the Soviet leaders with Dr Sakharov and Roy Medvedev. Its main argument was that every aspect of Soviet society, especially the economy, would suffer without a freer circulation of information and democratic reforms. He says he has been proved right by the deterioration of the situation since then. The rate of growth has slowed down and food supplies have deteriorated.

His main concern at the moment is the Belgrade conference, where 85 nations are reviewing the Helsinki agreement of 1975. He worries that the West will not press hard enough for the release of the people the Soviet authorities have imprisoned for setting up groups to monitor implementation of the agreement. "It is nonsensical to discuss seriously the implementation of Helsinki while such blatant violations continue," he told me. "The West must state that the Belgrade conference cannot be successfully concluded if members of the monitoring groups stay in prison."

The issue has in fact been raised in Belgrade and the names of two of the most prominent activists—Dr Yuri Orlov and Mr Anatoly Shcharansky—have been mentioned by the Americans, but Mr Turchin and his friends had hoped that their release would be made a precondition for starting the conference, or at least for agreeing to end it. These people are so closely connected with the conference, he says, that if they stay in prison it would be seen in the Soviet Union and eastern Europe as a betrayal not only of them but of the Helsinki agreement. "They had no political aims other than monitoring the agreement and collecting information provided by people who came to see them."

The West's bargaining position is strong, he says. The Soviet leaders need the West more than the West needs them. In the Soviet Union the West remains a focus of attraction for everyone at all levels. It is the source of ideas and technology without which the Soviet Union would be much

farther behind than it is now—and the technological gap is still not narrowing. Respect for Western achievements is great, and so is the need to buy Western goods and to remain in constant contact. "No member of the Politburo could gain significant support for an isolationist policy," he told me. "Theoretically the Soviet Union could close its doors and accept a slower pace of development, but in practice such a policy could be sustained only for a short time and for tactical reasons. The pressure for Western contacts is too great."

Therefore if the West remains firm and united, which unfortunately it is not, says Mr Turchin, the Soviet leaders will have no choice other than to retreat. In Belgrade the West must begin taking active and open steps. "There is no time to lose," he urged. There will probably be an amnesty for non-political prisoners for the forthcoming sixtieth anniversary of the revolution. The Soviet Union should be reminded that the anniversary is a political event so it would be appropriate to release political prisoners.

Discussing the human rights movement in the Soviet Union, Mr Turchin says that its mere existence has brought about a psychological change by creating a model of behaviour which is being closely watched by people of all types and at all levels, including party officials. "We cannot measure its strength by numbers," he told me. "Only by consciousness, by small changes in the way people think and feel. We are at pre-political stage."

The movement had also had other important effects, he said. It has made the West unable to ignore the state of human rights in the Soviet Union and has made it impossible for left-wing forces to regard the Soviet Union as a model. Within the Soviet Union the existence of outspoken dissidents has made it easier for silent non-conformists, or "half-dissidents", to resist pressures because the authorities now fear pushing them into becoming open dissidents. "This is a preliminary stage but without it there will be no further stage," Mr Turchin said. "If the human rights movement is stifled now there will be no hope. The West must press for the democratization of the Soviet Union because otherwise the West will become a tiny island in a sea of totalitarianism. I do not share Mr. Scharansky's political ideals, but his warnings should be taken into account. The totalitarian nature of such a strong power as Russia poisons the atmosphere."

Richard Davy

Bubbling over at Wexford with Massenet and friends

Bernard Levin

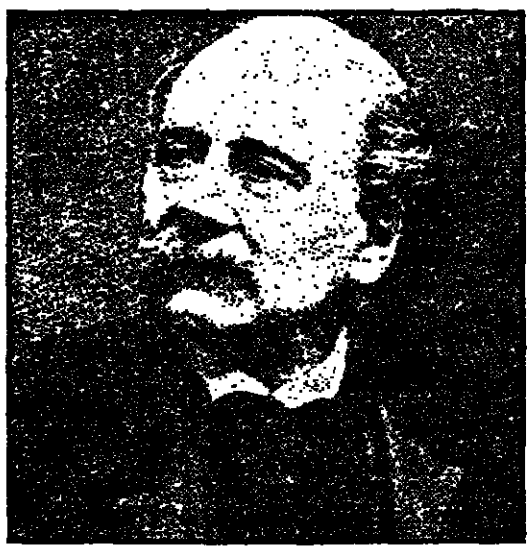
"You will find it an excellent thing, Sir," said Dr Johnson or possibly some other fellow who looked like him, "to examine your assumptions at least once every six months," and my visit to the annual Wexford Festival, from which I have just returned, concluding as usual that if I were ever to spend an entire week there instead of my regular Friday-Monday, I would be in the gravest danger of being greeted on my return by huge herds of pink elephants, has provided me with the opportunity to reconsider, for the first time for many years, my firm conviction that I do not like French opera.

This claim I have made so often that I have come to believe it as firmly, and unquestioningly, as I believe that the earth is flat. (Bulky, of course, but basically flat.) Yet there I was at Wexford, over the weekend, believing it no less firmly than ever, when it occurred to me, between a bite and a sup, to stop and think about it for once, whereupon I realized that it was untrue, and that it was Wexford that had proved it so. Certainly, I am allergic, to the point of hives, to the operas of Debussy and Ravel; there are long stretches of *The Trojans* during which I find myself obliged to pass the time by solving quadratic equations in my head; my mixed feelings about *Carmen* I have discussed here at some length. But there my complaints end, for I allied with a start on Saturday that I have now seen six French operas at Wexford in the last decade, and dated, positively dated, upon them all; whence I got the idea that I do not care for the genre I cannot

imagine, but it has been pretty thoroughly laid to rest by *Roméo et Juliette* (Gounod), *Les Pêcheurs de Perles* (Bizet), *Thais* (Massenet), *Le Roi d'Ys* (Lalo), and now *Hérodiade* (Massenet again).

I would not swear upon the autograph score of *Die Meistersinger* that any of these works is an imperishable masterpiece, but that is not the point; I go to Wexford to enjoy myself, and not only by the use of ample quantities of beaded bubbles winking at the brain and the six French operas I have listed have given me pleasure as great as anything I have ever got from, say, Puccini. Once the initial surrender has been made (the plots of practically all of them are ridiculous to a fault, though *Troubadour*, to be sure, could give them a start and a beating in that department), there is nothing left to do but sit back and revel, or, if you want me to be scrupulously truthful, wallow. I wallowed in *Hérodiade* at the weekend (it is another version of the Salome story, though not one that Richard Strauss would have recognized, let alone Wilde), as I wallowed in its five Franco-Wexfordian predecessors, and when I discovered that the Christian names of the tenor who sang John the Baptist (what was he doing with a cross, by the way?) were Jean Baptiste, my cup ran over. (That presented no problem, though; I simply ordered another bottle.)

There is a kind of sonority about the French language that seems, at any rate to my amateur's ear, to give French opera



Massenet: a special French sound to wallow in.

a distinctive sound not shared by works of other nationalities; it also, no doubt, accounts for the curious fact that French tenors always sound as though they are singing through their noses. This peculiarly French timbre is at the farthest possible remove from the crispness of the vocal line in Russian, say, let alone Mozart, and since most of the French opera that still survives in the international repertoire was written in the nineteenth century, the blend of the "French sound"

with romanticism has produced the kind of luxuriant musical foliage which I have persuaded myself that I do not like, but am now happy to admit, like M. Jourdain discovering that he had been talking prose all his life without realizing it, that I do. (I suspect it was something to do with the fact that Wagner, if you will pardon the expression, combined the musical texture of romanticism with such penetrating dramatic and psychological insight that I instinctively rejected the former,

or thought I did, when it came unaccompanied by the latter.)

As it happens next year's Wexford has no French opera in the programme, but a composer with a French name, d'Albert. (He was German, though he made the confusion even worse by being born in Glasgow. Mr Thomson Smith, artistic director of the festival, and a Glasgow lad himself, has promised in his honour to wear a kilt throughout the proceedings, or to be absolutely precise I have promised that he will.)

Well, I shall surely be there for d'Albert's *Pièces*, and if age has overcome me to such an extent that my friends have to prop my jaw open and pour the bubbles down my throat. (Mind you, if I ever allow age to get in the way of my wallowing, I shall certainly deserve to be ashamed of myself, at any rate to judge from the fact that as I set out for the Opera House on the Saturday evening, if I didn't see Sir Robert Mayer slipping down the steps of the hotel ahead of me, he being a mere 98 years old and age to begin conversations, most unenviably, with the words "As Brahms said to me".)

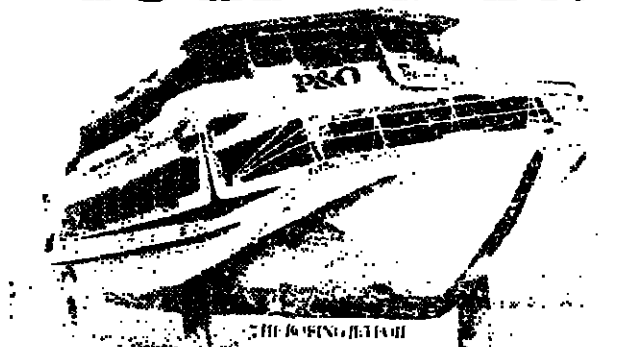
But how can anyone who has discovered the Wexford Festival come to stay away from it ever again? This proud little town, in the bottom right-hand corner of Ireland, has been playing host to a glorious feast of music and the spirits, since 1951, and my only regret is that I didn't go there before 1967. Do not know why my annual wallowing in it is so productive of joy; certainly there are dear friends (and new ones every year), certainly there is good

drink and good food, certainly there is good music. (Often there is good weather, too, but this was missing in a rather spectacular way on Sunday night when the heavens came tumbling down in so torrential an outburst that several of the hardier spirits took all their clothes off and swam the entire length of Main Street, and then continued up the hill to the Opera House like so many salmon ascending a leap.)

In Wexford, we thumb our noses at Euclid: the sun of the party is greater than the whole. The elements combine to make the heart lift as soon as the lights of the bridge just outside the town appear on the drive there through the gathering dark, and those spirits never flag until Dublin airport comes in sight on the return. The Wexford Festival lives very much from hand to mouth, of course, and could not survive at all if it were not for the stupendous amount of voluntary help it gets from the people of the town. Now the organizers have launched an ambitious appeal, whereby they can build proper backstage facilities (they have no scenery, no workshops, no adequate dressing-rooms). They deserve to get their money heaped up, pressed down and running over; and if any millionaire who loves good music, good living and good friendship should happen to read these lines, let him resolve to visit Wexford next year, and to leave behind a massive cheque if he is not disappointed. He will not be, and then he can come back the year after, and see what his money has wrought.

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TOWER BRIDGE TO ZEEBRUGGE, 2.30PM EVERY DAY.

A diamond day for a special breed of seabird

There will be a swag in the skirts around the National Maritime Museum today as Wrens from two world wars descend to celebrate the diamond jubilee of their formation in November, 1917.

The oldest is 84, the youngest a fledgling just joined. Ursula Stuart Mason, public relations officer at the museum and a former Wren, has written the script for an irresistible exhibition of the past 60 years, which has turned into a book as well. Nine-tenths of the material has come from private sources, that is the memories, photograph albums, and ditty-boxes of splendid old war-mares.

There are hatpins like bodkins with naval buttons on the end, looking as though they were designed to defend virtue as well as anchor the tricornes propellers they used to wear as hats. And there is a wealth of early snapshots showing, for instance, the first Wrens drilling and uncertain which was the best foot to put forward.

Ursula Mason has discovered the birth certificate of the formation of the Wrens, recorded in no history before. It is the



letter that Sir Eric Geddes, the First Lord of the Admiralty, wrote to George V, suggesting that women be substituted for men on certain work in the Royal Navy.

Another less successful suggestion was that they should be called the Women's Auxiliary Naval Corps, which would have made a less attractive acronym.

THE TIMES DIARY/PHS

A slip of the disc for the LSO

The London Symphony Orchestra must be kicking themselves for having failed to cut themselves a slice of one of the richest cakes in the city likely to land on their table.

It will not have escaped your notice that *Star Wars*, a space fantasy, threatens to become the most commercially successful film ever made. Its musical score by John Williams (not the guitarist) is performed by the LSO.

When the music was rendered down to two LPs, the choice had a choice: either take a share of the royalties or settle for what the trade calls a session fee—a once-and-for-all payment.

It settled for the session fee.

When X marks the unfair spot

My item last week about Bernard Levin and the survey man who won a seat on the students' council at the LSE, has drawn an expected, but useful, response from the Electoral Reform Society about the evils of the X-voting system.

If voting had been by single transferable vote, the society tells me, it is most unlikely the bogus candidate would have been elected. In the actual election, anyone wanting to support the Labour ticket could vote only X for each of its candidates, with no means of discriminating between one he

All a question of bridgemanhip

President Carter admitted recently that he is having problems getting his message across to American businessmen. Looking at the transcript of a meeting he had with European business chiefs and *Time* journalists, I am not surprised. I think, he said, there will be a repainting of the present problems among the business leaders as relates to my Administration.

I am sure there will be no such obfuscation about the repairs to the bridge between American policy-makers and businessmen which will soon be undertaken by the Centre for Strategic and International Studies at Georgetown University.

In January, the centre launches a quarterly called *The Washington Review of Strategic and International Studies*. It will be written by, and for, policy-makers and

leaders of the business community.

In foreign affairs, the weight of authority will be considerable. Writing in the first issue will be Henry Kissinger, who has a part-time job as a counsellor at the centre. He has a suite there where he is still busily writing his memoirs.

The joint European editor of the quarterly is the London-based Joseph Godson, former labour attaché in London in the Fifties, who retired from the American diplomatic service in 1971. His son Roy provides another link between his father and Georgetown. He is an associate professor at the centre, lecturing in government.

A postcard from Corfu bore a picture of a local tourist attraction with the caption: *Kenapa-To Neon Opposion; Corfu—Il Nuovo Castello; Corfu—Le Nouveau Château; Corfu—Der Neuer Schloss; The English translation read: Corfu—The Old Castle.*

Aubrey Boomer, the golfer, is 80 today. He played in the first Ryder Cup match against the United States fifty years ago, and won eleven national titles. Since his retirement he has been attached to the Royal Club at Ravensthorpe in Belgium, where he is much in demand as a coach. Mr Boomer is a Channel Islander, and was at school with Sir William Riley, the former editor of *The Times*. Sir William took golf lessons, but not from Mr Boomer. That awesome task fell to George Duncan, who advised his pupil: "Get your weight on your heels, sir!" The future editor replied, with more logic than golfing sense: "My weight is where it is—and that is where it will stay."

JPR, 10/13/77

§ Forward bargains are permitted on two previous days.

الكتاب من الأصل

Australia: a significant and growing market for European exports

Mr John Winston Howard, Australia's Minister for Special Trade Negotiations with the EEC, is the first (and so far the only) minister in the world to be responsible for his country's relations with the Community. He has just completed his first visit to Brussels and in this interview talks to Peter Brinkmann.

Can you give a brief description of the functions of your new ministry and your job as so-called EEC minister?

My appointment followed the visit of the Australian Prime Minister to Europe in June of this year when it became apparent that there was a definite need for Australia and the EEC countries to look carefully at the totality of our economic and trade relations.

In particular, there is growing frustration in Australia with the extent to which problems in our trading relations are seriously disrupting key Australian industries, not only by the effects they have on European markets but also in other markets throughout the world.

This appointment indicates the importance which we place on improving relations with the EEC and adequately resolving our trading difficulties.

The volume of Australian trade with the EEC is small in comparison to the volume of trade with Japan and the United States. Why did your Government feel that it was necessary to create a special ministry for negotiations with the EEC?

Australia is a major trading nation and we have traditionally had close relations with Europe. The importance of Australia's trade with the EEC countries should not be underestimated. The European Community is the largest supplier to Australia, providing more than a quarter of our imports: we are a significant and growing market for European manufactured goods and capital equipment.

The EEC takes about 15 per cent of Australia's exports. We believe that Australia's competitive advantage in areas such as agricultural products and raw materials and the growing requirements of the Community, the world's largest trading block, should enable trade to expand significantly in the years ahead. Increased European investment, particularly in the development of our mineral industry, is also welcome.

The European Community has high tariff barriers which impede imports from third countries, including Australia, especially in the agricultural sector. Since Britain's entry into the Community you have lost your European markets for flour, butter and meat. What concrete proposals did you present in Brussels to improve trade?

The EEC not only has high tariff barriers which in important cases reduce imports from outside the Community to a residual role, it also provides very significant export subsidies which adversely affect Australian producers in third markets.

You will appreciate why Australia is concerned both with questions of access to the EEC markets and the effects of Community policies on agricultural prices in third markets, when I point out that since Britain's entry into the Community exports of agricultural products to the nine countries have dropped by more than 80 per cent.

While in Europe I put Australia's case for greater market access to the EEC and pointed out the problems caused to Australia in third markets as a result of the subsidies paid on exports of surpluses from the Community.

This does not mean that I do not

fully recognize the basis for the Common Agricultural Policy and the significant role that it plays. That policy is in its basic conception a matter of domestic European concern, and it was no part of my aim to interfere with it.

However, there are some areas in which we believe that modifications to existing practices would yield significant benefits to Australia and other exporting countries and at the same time offer advantages to European consumers through lower prices. The proposals I put forward during my discussions therefore aimed at modifying EEC policies in areas of interest to Australia. At the same time, Australia wishes to present itself as an important and growing market for many European exports.

Will your Government use uranium as a lever to gain concessions in negotiations with the European Commission?

I have been the first Australian minister to have had discussions with the Commission and the nine member countries since the announcement by the Australian Government that there should be further development of uranium. In view of the interest in EEC countries in this area, I expect to be discussing at some length Australia's uranium policies. However, while uranium is an important commodity, I see the discussions on supply by Australia as only one aspect of the overall consultations.

Australia is in a position to play an important role in the future as a stable and reliable supplier of a wide range of raw materials (both processed and unprocessed) as well as energy sources such as coal and uranium. Australia also has a vital interest in the export of agricultural products. In my discussions uranium is therefore one commodity to be considered as part of our total trading relationship with the EEC. I seeked to achieve a balance in this relationship to the mutual benefit of both Australia and the Community countries.

In view of the large agricultural surpluses in the EEC, how do you rate your chances of success in the forthcoming negotiations?

I recognize that some of the problems I will be raising also pose difficulties for the Community and that eventual solutions in some cases may only be found through multi-lateral negotiations. Nevertheless, it is timely for Australia and the EEC to be discussing the issues at first hand, thereby assisting the present and prospective trading relationship between us. It is important that trade between Australia and the Community develops on a sound and equitable basis and that there be appropriate means by which regular discussions can take place and problems that arise can be identified and a sincere effort made to have them resolved.



On the contrary

Non au mariage?

Un grand débat est tranché. Un autre recommence.

Au Royaume-Uni, la controverse au sujet du Marché commun s'est soldée par l'échec de ceux qui voudraient en sortir. Deux ans après le référendum confirmant l'adhésion britannique, les nostalgiques du parti travailliste ont enfin et pour le moment accepté la décision du peuple.

La victoire des Européens au sein du parti doit beaucoup à l'habileté politique de M Callaghan. Mais les affirmations par lesquelles ce dernier a apaisé les craintes de ses adversaires a provoqué des inquiétudes auprès de ses alliés. Certains partenaires de la Grande-Bretagne ont eu l'impression d'assister à la renaissance d'un gaullisme qu'ils croyaient défunt.

Arrive alors la Commission de Bruxelles, porteuse d'un paquet de propositions aptes à exciter les esprits. Pour lutter contre l'inflation et le chômage, le Président Jenkins préconise la stabilisation des monnaies et le transfert des ressources. C'est tout ce qu'il y a de plus raisonnable, sauf son titre: l'Union économique et monétaire.

A cela, M Callaghan semble préférer l'union libre. Toutefois, comme Européen—ce n'est qu'un débutant. Continuons le combat!

Pangloss



Rounding up his flock in Australia, the farmer takes to his motor cycle.

Opponents on its left and right

Spanish cartel stands at crossroads

Of all Spanish businesses, the one facing the most uncertain future for political reasons, rather than as a result of the present economic slump, is surely the big state-managed cartel known as INI (National Institute for Industry).

At the end of 1976, INI was Spain's biggest industrial holding company and one of the top 10 European business enterprises, both in terms of investment and value added. According to the annual report on Spanish industry published in Madrid last June by the Ministry of Industry, INI "is one of the principal instruments which the country has at its disposal to carry out the profound transformation which its economy needs with the objective of overcoming the present crisis and achieving a modern (economic) structure on a European scale. . . . The economic crisis of the past three years and the prospects for the future . . . have reinforced the relative importance of the role of public enterprise."

The anonymous author of that portion of the Ministry's report made no reference to the viability of INI as an institution. But the National Institute for Industry is at a crossroads, and one of the turnings might lead it to extinction. The political philosophy responsible for its creation has been thrown into the discard heap, since the death of General Franco, along with other formerly sacrosanct concepts and institutions such as the obligatory state-run vertically-organized trade unions.

Although the Generalissimo was too much of an individual dictator to espouse fascism as such, he used those aspects of it which suited his purposes. And one cornerstone which was built into the structure of the Franco regime was the National-Socialist idea of government participation (as distinguished from nationalization) in industry for the purpose of promoting a planned economy and guaranteeing employment.

If it can be said truthfully that the Franco regime cooperated closely with many privately-owned big businesses, it can also be said that the regime fostered, shaped, created or directly controlled other large businesses through INI, an autonomous department of the Ministry of Industry acting at least in principle with the aim of creating industries in places and sectors in which private capital was hesitant.

INI grew the Topsy. Today it dominates the coal-mining, steel-making, shipbuilding, aircraft manufacture, air transport, natural gas and nuclear power industries, in addition to having a big interest in many

other national and international industries.

INI grew where others shrank because, while its management was not averse to making money (in fact many foreign investors hold INI bonds), its raison d'être put national interests ahead of profits.

Thus INI could—and still can—afford to keep Spain's deficit coal-mining industry going in order to keep miners employed and maintain an energy source which (it is unprofitable at present) might eventually be of significance. Spain's shipbuilding industry (the fifth largest in the world but suffering from under-nourished order books) may be able to hold out longer than those of some other countries because it can operate at a loss for some time without being forced out of business.

However, now that democracy has come to Spain, the function and legitimacy of INI, a mighty industrial cartel which works in partnership with private capital but is a state agency, are open to question. Its fascist-rooted origins make it unsavoury for parties of the left. Its great competitive advantages make it unpopular with private businessmen—except for those who have formed partnerships with the giant.

In short, INI represents strong government intervention in sectors which some people think should be restricted to private enterprise: yet at the same time its ties with capitalism are too close to suit those of the opposite political sector.

Spain's main parliamentary opposition, the Spanish Socialist Workers' PSOE Party, did Señor Adolfo Suárez, the Prime Minister, a considerable favour by failing to bring up the question of the survival of INI during the first few months after the general elections of last June, but probably only because it was too busy with other matters.

Employees at INI headquarters, even those in the Department of Public Relations and Press Affairs, appeared oblivious to the threatened collapse of the INI empire, when they were questioned late in August about possible changes in the structure of the institute. Nevertheless, according to informed sources, at the same time top officials of the Ministry of Industry were studying proposals to revamp the autonomous department in order to keep the Suárez Government one jump ahead of the Opposition.

The contents of those proposals were not immediately revealed. Indeed the attitude of the Minister of Industry, let alone that of the Gov-

ernment as a whole, was still unknown in September when the Premier, King Juan Carlos and other political figures returned from their brief and frequently interrupted summer holidays.

A restructured INI, as a flexible instrument in the hands of Spain's Vice-Premier for Economic Affairs, Professor Alfonso Fuentes Quintana, might be acceptable to the Parliamentary Opposition: but it would have to be a new look INI, slimmed down and under tighter administrative control, with less of an aspect of permanence. As an institution comparable to the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt's polemical Work Projects Administration (WPA) of the 1930s in the United States, it might be able to survive for the time being. But its long-term survival, at least in its present form, is highly unlikely even though it serves a useful purpose.

As with the now dismantled state-run trade unions, there will surely be a hot debate about what to do with what INI owns, unless the Government can transform the nature of the institute before the politicians launch their attack.

The basic controversy, unless changes are made rapidly, will surely centre on whether it is necessary for a government agency—even if its purpose is to stimulate industries which are in the national interest in such places as those interests dictate—to own and manage the industries involved, especially when it means going into business partnership with private individuals, or whether such an agency's function should be limited to the mere administration and enforcement of measures outlined in pertinent legislation. The final question is how much freedom of action such an agency should be allowed: whether it should decide on its own what to support and promote or whether it should foster any given industry only on specific instructions from Parliament.

As a holding company, INI made a net profit last year of 459.3m pesetas (about £3.1m at current exchange rates), with a turnover of 18,438.1m pesetas (about £125.4m at current rates).

In announcing the balance at a news conference in Madrid in September, Señor Francisco Jiménez Torres, the president of INI, admitted: "The financial structure of the balance is not the one we would wish", although the results are "positive".

He revealed that INI investments in 1977 will total nearly 137,100m pesetas (£932.7m), and 60 per cent of that investment will be made in the energy sector.

Harry Debelius

Europe is . . .

What does Europe mean to you? Does it evoke a personal experience? Is it an abstract ideal, a political reality or an intellectual challenge? How do you feel about it? The European Cultural Foundation, in Amsterdam, and Europa would like to know. The foundation is prepared to award the writer of the best essay on the theme "Europe is . . ." a prize of 3,000 florins.

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Facts and figures

	Rate of growth	Quality of growth		Maintenance of growth		
		Prices	Unemployment	Productive capacity	Foreign trade	Vulnerability to external factors
GERMANY	○	●●●	○	○	●●●	●●●
FRANCE	○	○	○	○	○	○
ITALY	○	○	○	○	○	○
BRITAIN	○	○	○	○	○	○

Recovery with caution

Where signs of flagging production had been observed last month more or less everywhere, even in the United States, giving rise to apprehension about the future it now seems that the position has been reversed, giving cause for hope. It is early yet, but there have been perceptible and simultaneous improvements in several countries.

Foremost among them is the United States, where the indicators of future trends in activity turn out to have been better than first believed. After the upward adjustment of the July figure, the number of successive monthly falls has been reduced from three to two, in May and June, when they fell by 0.2 per cent, and that actually rose by 0.2 per cent and then was followed up by a 0.8 per cent increase in August.

That recovery is confirmed by other signs, notably orders to industry, which moved ahead sharply by 2.3 per cent in August, though that followed a 3.6 per cent fall in July.

In France as well there are once again some favourable indications, with an increase in consumer spending reflected in the brisker rate of increase of the large turnovers of stores since July. In West Germany, as the graph shows, industrial production is back on a slightly rising trend, an improvement which seems to be confirmed by an increase in retail sales in August.

A recent recovery in sales and household consumption also seems to have served to get Britain over the hump. Only in Italy, where the rate of growth admittedly has been rapid, has industrial production fallen in July and August for the first time against last year.

That exception apart, the picture is one of slight improvement, but it is still necessary to exercise caution in assessing the improvements made. Experience has shown that rises and falls alike are not going very far.

The first reason for that is that stocks remain at a low level, so that industry can adjust quickly to prevailing conditions. Companies are continuing to take the short view, allowing policy to be dictated by current demand.

Moreover now that trade is under threat, demand relies largely on private consumption, which is subject to abrupt fluctuations, as has been demonstrated recently by the American retail figures, which rose by 1.7 per cent in August only to fall back again by 1.2 per cent in September.

On the other hand investment in the wider sense, beginning with housing and construction (except in the United States) and industrial plant, is scarcely moving ahead at all.

In that connexion the statistics of rates of increase quoted should be seen in their true light: they represent progress from low levels, even in the United States. Moreover, such investment as is being put in hand is aimed at maintaining existing positions and rationalization. It is aimed rarely at expansion, which is only to be expected when capacity use is unable to rise much above 80 per cent.

Given those conditions, the prolonged and deepening crisis in the iron and steel industry is not surprising. Though steel production is being boosted by motor manufacture, it is getting little help from the construction industry and scarcely more from industrial plant. Companies are not investing enough.

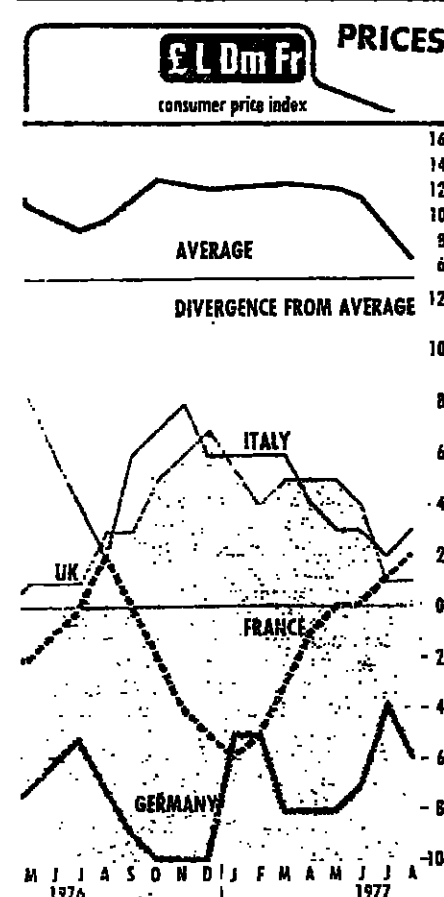
The governments of several countries, including West Germany, Britain and France, have been making efforts to reverse the trend whereby the proportion of retained profits for investment was being eroded by rising wages. They have been successful, but have not always been prepared to admit it. Unfortunately the effects are proving slow to materialize and Herr Schmidt's celebrated dictum, "Today's company profits make tomorrow's investments and the day after tomorrow's jobs", has yet to be confirmed.

In consequence, governments are being obliged to intervene to make up for the reluctance of industry to place faith in the future through investment or employment policies.

That they are doing, although they still hope that the restoration of economic health will of itself bring a spontaneous recovery in consumption, followed by investment. However, apart from a few measures aimed at giving a direct boost to consumption without threatening economic recovery, they are no longer using the traditional methods advocated by Keynes.

While keeping a careful watch on the money supply, the key to stability, they are trying to trade off tax alleviation against wage moderation. Efforts in that direction have been made in Britain, which has just launched a reflationary budget of £1,000m in tax allowances, and in West Germany.

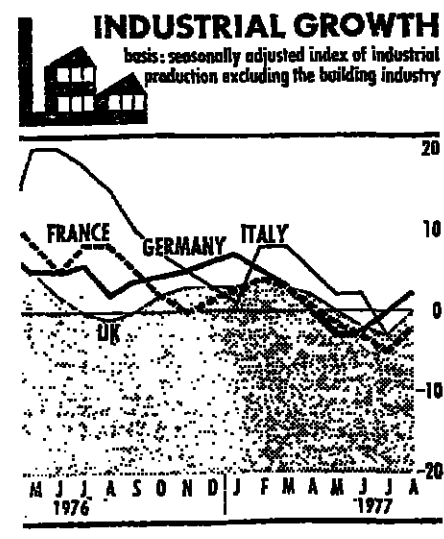
They are also trying to overcome the reluctance of employers to recruit by bearing a share of the wage burden through subsidies (Britain) or the waiver of employers' contributions (France). Italy is also taking action in that sphere, with its special registers.



PRICES
consumer price index

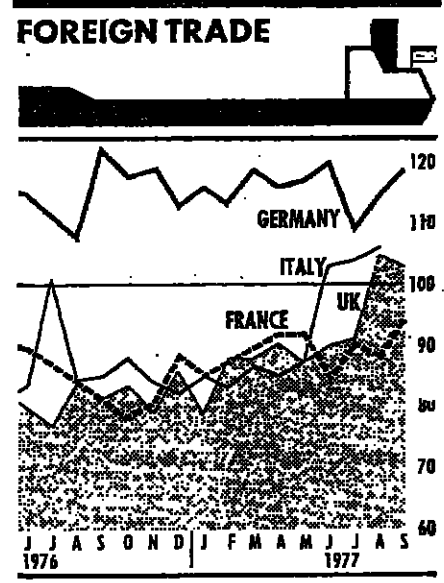
AVERAGE
DIVERGENCE FROM AVERAGE

Prices: The average inflation rate is still coming down, and, calculated on the basis of the three months July, August and September, is running at only 6.5 per cent. The individual rates are all in West Germany, 7 per cent in Britain, 8.5 per cent in France and 10 per cent in Italy. The last-named country recorded a less satisfactory monthly rise of 1.1 per cent in September.

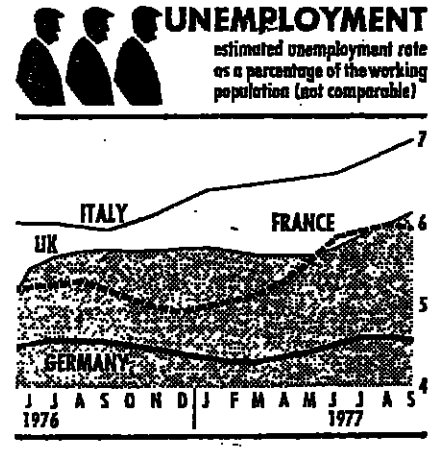


INDUSTRIAL GROWTH
basis: seasonally adjusted index of industrial production excluding the building industry

Growth: There has been a slight improvement in the industrial growth rate in West Germany, from nil to 2 per cent, and in Britain, from -3 per cent to nil; it is still in decline in Italy, however, and is now running at -3 per cent and French output continues to decline.



FOREIGN TRADE
Foreign trade: cover of imports by exports, calculated fob-cif and seasonally adjusted, is still in surplus in Britain (103 per cent in September) and in Italy (106 per cent in August). France too is now approaching breakeven point, with 94 per cent in September.



UNEMPLOYMENT
estimated unemployment rate as a percentage of the working population (not comparable)

Unemployment: The seasonally-adjusted unemployment rate in France and Germany fell in September from 6 per cent to 5.8 per cent and from 4.6 per cent to 4.5 per cent respectively. On the other hand, there was a rise from 6 per cent to 6.1 per cent in Britain and the rate in Italy is now pushing through 7 per cent. However, these statistics should be regarded with caution in view of the effect that governmental measures can have (for instance in Italy and France).

United States: Comparative situation and influence

Industrial growth ● (●)
After the fears of recession, the most recent statistics are a little more reassuring. The index of leading indicators which foreshadows economic trends rose by 0.2 per cent in July and by 0.8 per cent in August. Orders to industry recovered strongly by 2.3 per cent in August. Retail sales rose by 1.7 per cent in the same month, but unfortunately fell back again by 1.2 per cent in September.

Prices ○ (○)
The inflation rate has eased considerably and was down to an annual rate of a little over 5 per cent in August. However, the recent trend in wholesale prices, which rose rather more sharply (by 0.5 per cent) in September than in August (0.1 per cent), is disturbing.

Unemployment ○ (○)
Unemployment expressed as a percentage of the workforce registered a further fall, from 7.1 per cent in August to 6.9 per cent in September, a figure corresponding to 6,800,000 unemployed against 91,200,000 in work.

Productive capacity ● (●)
Capacity use fell back slightly from 83.7 per cent in July to 82.7 per cent in August, a consequence of the deceleration during the second quarter.

Trade ○○○ (○○○)
The sequence of trade deficits continues. August saw a marked fall in exports, which fell short of imports by \$2,700m. The total deficit for the first eight months is \$17,600m when calculated fob-fob and \$24,000m fob-cif.

Influence on the four countries
Monetary and financial: The dollar is once again in decline despite the increase in American interest rates (prime rate is now 7.5 per cent). European currencies, by contrast, are being pushed up, hence the further reduction in interest rates. Sterling is still stealing the limelight, after a further reduction in the minimum lending rate to 5 per cent. British rates are now well below those in the United States.

Economic: The threat to American growth is really less serious than was feared. It nevertheless remains essential to bridge the widening trade and monetary gap between the United States and the other countries, with the Western countries getting back into phase; this will entail deceleration of activity in the United States and acceleration elsewhere.

○ Poor ○○ Bad ○○○ Very bad ● Fairly good ●● Good () Previous performance

Hans Baumann talks to the troubleshooters

Industry is leaving the Continent

Why is the European economy not picking up more strongly? Europa questioned the men who must know the answers, the business consultants who are called in as troubleshooters whenever industry feels unable to cope with its difficulties. Their answers are unanimous: general surplus productive capacity, wage costs are too high, and companies that want to invest turn their back on Europe and invest in countries with lower social costs.

Mr William E. Hill, joint owner of the William E. Hill company, of New York, gives the reasons for this last statement: in the past year there were 255 cases of direct foreign investment, mostly from Europe—an unusually large number. The biggest investor was the United Kingdom. The flow is remaining undiminished. Mr Hill sees the attraction for capital in the relatively good state of the United States economy and the lower social costs.

He spoils the picture by going on to say that the United States economy is heading back into recession, like the European economies. That opinion is shared by Dr Arthur Burns, chairman of the United States Federal Reserve. Even President Carter must be realizing that his country is moving into an economic trough: even if "mp" does grow by 4 per cent in 1977, the upper limit for growth in 1978 must be 2 per cent.

Because Mr Hill is a humorous man, he illustrates the worsening American economic situation with the following story: a judge said to the accused: "Admit it, you were drunk and smoked in bed, and that's how the bed caught fire". The accused replied: "I admit I was drunk, but the bed was on fire before I got into it".

Mr Hill speaks from considerable experience in advising the European economies not to wait for a lead from the United States—because they will wait in vain.

In Milan Signor Pier Malinverni's brow wrinkles anxiously as he assesses the state of the Italian economy. He is the chairman of Orga, the oldest Italian consultants—the

firm was founded in 1925. Ever since the "hot winter" of 1969, he feels, Italy has been the "hot story" for the international press.

He sums up the reasons for that in the following points: the enduring balance-of-payments deficit (which has, however, improved since last June); The high rate of inflation, which has fallen from 22 to 16 per cent in annual terms, but is still too high for safety; and the high cost of labour: since 1969, wages in Italy have been brought up to European levels too quickly. He also blames the high social costs, about 80 per cent of wages, which are of little benefit to the individual worker; the heavy social insurance, which makes it almost impossible to lay off an employee; and social conflict—strikes and urban guerrillas—which disturb business confidence.

Another economic drawback for Italy, in his eyes, is the clear gulf between politics and business, and the struggle between north and south, with both sides showing little understanding of the other's difficulties. Other causes of dissatisfaction are the growing economic chauvinism, the increasing burden of taxation on Italian companies, and the question of exports. Middle-sized companies suffer particularly from a lack of knowledge in this respect.

The picture that Signor Malinverni presents is not all gloom: to his own knowledge, most private companies are doing well, and even investing. He closed on an optimistic note: "1976 was one of the best years for private business in Italy."

The most serious complaint comes from Mr Nicholas Branch, managing director of Binder, Hamlyn, Fry, of London. He has devised the following formula for United Kingdom Ltd: low profits, low investment, silly legislation, inconsistent government, powerful negative unions, poor incentives, old-fashioned management and high country overheads equal an uncompetitive country. Add socialist legislation, reliance on imports and North Sea oil and the result is survival with high inflation and high unemployment. But if one adds retraining, expansion of invisibles and overseas marketing

the country may enjoy prosperity and happiness.

Despite this gloomy document, Mr Branch still sees one possibility for Britain (which he characterizes as offering "little incentive for hard work") to solve its problems at a stroke: North Sea oil. But he is not altogether sure of the outcome: "It all depends what we do with the revenue from the oil."

Mr Reint van der Torn and M Jacques Giroire hold similar views of the economic situation in Holland and France. Mr van der Torn is the managing partner of van der Torn & Buningh, Utrecht, and the president of the Dutch Association of Business Consultants, ROA. M Giroire is general director of GNV Conseil, Paris, and a member of the council of the French Association of Consultants, Syntec.

Mr van der Torn holds that the essential question is the slackness of demand. According to him, excess capacity exists in the furniture, textile, food and drink, and shoe industries, and in construction, shipping and the docks. He is supported in this by Herr Roland Berger, managing partner of Roland Berger & Partner and member of the council of the West German Association of Business Consultants, BDU. This view sees the question of excess capacity exacerbated by industry's shift to countries where social costs are lower. Mr van der Torn points to The Netherlands as an example of the extent of this movement: there the number of unemployed is rising weakly as a result of industry's withdrawal.

Any one asking business consultants how business is doing in their country will also want to know how business consultancy itself is prospering. The answer is the reverse of the national slumps—consultancy has never had it better. Business consultants are advising top management in their decisions, in banks, governments and unions: they are analysing economies, researching markets for their suitability for new products, putting the right man in the right job—a decisive matter in times of economic weakness. "We live by our clients' problems," Mr van der Torn says. Where thistles flourish, the consultants' wheat grows thick.

Leo Fischer charts a drop in drinkers

There's an awful lack of coffee in Brazil

On July 18, 1975, the coffee market was turned upside down. On that day the hardest frost in living memory destroyed half the 1976 coffee crop in Brazil, the world's largest coffee producer. Overnight the situation on the world coffee market changed completely: where the market had been expecting falling prices because of high stocks of green coffee, coffee suddenly became a scarce commodity, with the consequential rise in prices. Producer countries swiftly withdrew offers for supplies, and the roasters (who had let their stocks of green coffee fall to the lowest level in years) bought every bean they could get.

The following weeks and months saw an unparalleled rise on the coffee futures markets. Before the frost coffee was quoted on the exchanges in New York and London at 50-60 cents a pound and £400 a ton respectively. Twenty-one months later coffee was being quoted at new record levels: in New York the peak price was \$3.40 a lb, in London £4,232 a ton. The price increase was encouraged by alarming stories from Brazil that the damage was much worse than generally believed. Where the 1975-76 Brazilian harvest was more than 22 million 60kg sacks, the producers were now forecasting the yield of the 1976-77 harvest at only six million sacks. The United States Department of Agriculture and London merchants, however, estimated the 1976-77 Brazilian harvest would be at least eight million sacks.

Nevertheless, whichever set of figures you chose to believe, the decline in production was shattering. This is illustrated by the figures for the harvests in the seven leading coffee producers, responsible for almost 90 per cent of world output.

Supplies from producer countries are, however, not just from current production but also from stocks. From 1970-71 to 1976-77 there was only one year (1974-75) when exportable production in producer countries was above world imports of coffee. In all other years the difference between production and consumption was made up from stocks.

Brazil resorted to measures to reduce supply—methods which it seems to be trying to use again. They involve cutting back home consumption and meeting it from less valuable imported grades, while taking the good, home-produced grades into stock, and thus withdrawing them from the world market.

There is hardly any other commodity where consumers are so affected by the close relationship between the quotation on the commodity markets and the retail price. What do the London quotations for copper, silver, wool or sugar mean to final consumers? Their wallets are rarely affected by the price movements in these products. But it is a different story with coffee: there was only a short time between the change in prices on the coffee exchanges and the impact on roasted coffee prices in the leading importing countries.

The main coffee importers are the United States and West Germany, followed by France, Italy, The Netherlands and Sweden. In the United States, prices in the shops rose from \$1.27 a lb in July 1975 (before the frost in Brazil) to \$3.94 a lb on June 1, 1977. That is an increase of 210 per cent. In West Germany coffee prices were increased in several stages by 40 per cent in all (the increases were largely withdrawn subsequently).

Although in the past coffee has shown a low price elasticity of demand, the increased price led this time—although with a considerable delay—to a reduction in consumption. In 1967 coffee had replaced beer as West Germany's most popular beverage, despite the rising trend of prices (one hundred litres a head of the population); in the first four months of this year consumption fell markedly. By August one of Hamburg's biggest chain stores, Tchibo, was expressing fears of a 10 per cent drop in consumption.

In the United States coffee-drinkers' abstinence was even more serious: boycotts by consumer associations produced a 15 per cent drop in turnover by this summer.

But consumer action has been less influential in restraining coffee prices than expectations of renewed surpluses on the coffee market, based on rising production prospects. In London now coffee is quoted at £2,147 a ton, about 50 per cent below its peak this April.

As it turns out the Brazilian coffee-farmers seem to be recovering from the effects of the frost faster than they would like. In 1977-78 they are expecting a harvest in Brazil of 14,200,000 sacks, compared with six to eight million in the previous year. Estimates put the world coffee harvest at 69,900,000 sacks, of which about 52,700,000 sacks will be available for export from the coffee producing countries. This is an increase of 10 million on the previous year. At the same time world consumption has probably dropped by five million 60kg sacks.

In the face of those estimates the main exporters Brazil and Colombia hold differing views about the correct market strategy. Colombia favours a revision of the export price to take account of consumer reticence, but Brazil wants to retain the export price of \$3.20 a lb.

Most exporters doubt that Brazil will be able to keep its grip on the coffee market. From January on there will be so much coffee available for immediate delivery that the producers will have to woo the merchants, and that will have to be by lower prices.



Picking coffee beans near Campinas.

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Europa

As trade and investment with South Africa becomes a major political issue at the United Nations, Europa

looks at the new code of conduct agreed by the European Community

and reviews the overall progress of the Nine to develop a common front in foreign policy

Discrimination can cut both ways

On the day that Mr Vorster called an election to back his fight against what he called foreign meddling in South Africa's affairs, the EEC foreign ministers were meeting in Brussels to approve a code of conduct for companies operating in the republic.

To the white community in South Africa the EEC initiative appeared as yet another move to destroy the basis of their society. Yet in reality the EEC code represented an attempt to fend off pressures for economic sanctions against South Africa.

Europe has a powerful influence in the South African economy. In 1975 the Community's investment in the republic amounted to R9,850m, or two thirds of the country's total foreign investment. Half the foreign investment in South Africa is from Britain, and more than three hundred British companies have subsidiaries there. The other EEC countries account for 14 per cent of foreign investment.

It is unusual for a group of countries to adopt a joint policy on investment in a foreign state. Why, South Africans always ask, should they be singled out? The simple answer is that no other country has institutionalized racial discrimination. The lack of trade union rights for black workers also means that companies operating in South Africa are particularly vulnerable to criticism that they are exploiting the local workforce.

The EEC therefore worked out a code of conduct to deal with the treatment of black workers employed by European companies in South Africa. Migrant labour is condemned as "an instrument of the policy of apartheid" and "employers have the social responsibility to contribute towards ensuring freedom of movement for black African workers and their families".

Companies are asked to pay wages over the minimum effective level (50 per cent above the poverty datum line). More important, however, is the call to encourage trade unions. The

code points out that they are not illegal, and that "should black African employees decide that their representative body should be in the form of a trade union, the company should accept this decision".

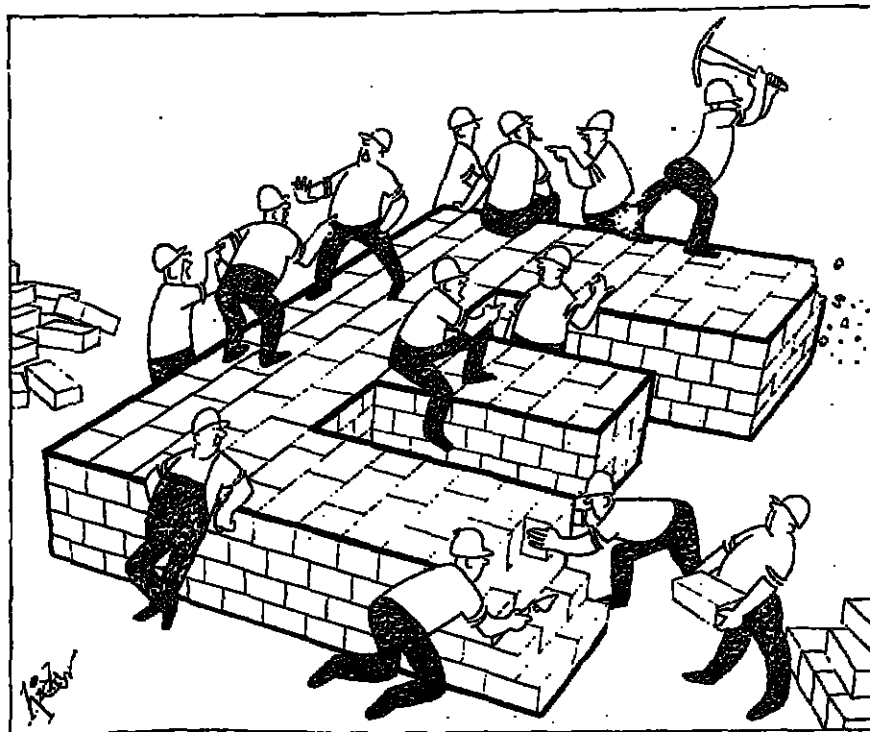
This represents a significant advance on the earlier British code, introduced in 1974, which had avoided the crucial problem of industrial relations. Trade union rights are severely restricted in South Africa, but black workers will be able to fight for higher wages only when they increase their bargaining power.

Reaction to the EEC code in South Africa was predictably hostile in government circles. Mr P. W. Botha, the Foreign Minister, dismissed it because of its "high moral tone".

Western companies operating in South Africa generally reacted by claiming that they had already adopted most of the provisions of the code, but that it would be difficult to go much further without coming into conflict with South African legislation. The Confederation of British Industry expressed reservations over some aspects of the code. In Paris a director of the Patronat commented that "French firms have been trying for some time to apply these rules". The Federation of German Industry was also fairly cool.

European companies claimed that they would lose business to their Japanese, American and South African competitors. Already, however, moves are afoot to extend the EEC code to include all 24 nations of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development, and this would mean that it would cover almost all foreign investors in South Africa. The multinationals recognize that introducing the code would increase their wages bill, and reduce the attraction of investment in South Africa.

Negotiation of the EEC code took considerably longer than expected



because of differences among the Nine. Germany and France were cautious, but Holland and Denmark proposed measures to restrict further trade and investment. Britain steered the Community along a middle road.

The EEC is also South Africa's largest trading partner. Last year half of South Africa's imports of R5,978m and exports of R4,493m were accounted for by trade with the Community. Britain has recently slipped into third place as South Africa's source of imports, after the United States (21 per cent) and Germany (18 per cent), but it still retains an 18 per cent share of the market. France and Italy each provide 4 per cent of South Africa's imports.

South Africa's exports consist mainly of its valuable mineral wealth. The United Kingdom is its largest export market, with a 22 per cent share. Germany (11 per cent), Belgium (4 per cent), and Switzerland (4 per cent) are also major buyers of South African produce.

During negotiations over the EEC code of conduct the Dutch pressed for measures to reduce trade with South Africa. This led to a decision that the Community should at least begin to study further ways in which economic pressure could be exerted on the regime. Already the Dutch Government has decided to reduce its trading ties. The draft programme of the new Labour-Christian Democrat coalition states that no credit guarantees will be granted for exports to South Africa.

The recent bannings and the new wave of repression in South Africa has already led to further international pressures. Moves to impose sanctions are being resisted by the larger EEC members which have extensive economic links with South Africa. But since Soweto there has been a growing reluctance among the business community to increase these ties while the political situation remains so unstable.

Martin Bailey

Solidarity begins at home

"Political cooperation, that is common diplomatic action by the Nine, is beginning to make itself noticed. At the European Council at the end of June the heads of government, keen to demonstrate their unity of outlook, published a declaration on the Middle East in which they referred to the need to create "a homeland for the Palestinian people".

A few weeks later the foreign ministers announced their intention of using the Community's political weight to persuade South Africa to modify its racial policy. As the Belgrade conference opens, much emphasis is being laid on the exemplary solidarity displayed by the Nine on East-West relations.

Not too much should be made of all this, however. The Nine are not on the point of establishing a common external policy, far from it. The care with which they are now addressing themselves to these important but remote issues is accounted for largely by the fact that they get themselves into such a mess when trying to deal with the Community's purely internal affairs.

Who can fail to see that the collective incursions by the heads of government or their ministers into world affairs carry little weight when at the same time they show themselves incapable of taking the decisions—on such matters as exchange rates, employment, energy and trade—needed to run Community life? In fact, what we are witnessing is a sort of stampede into foreign policy.

However, it would be wrong to underestimate the results obtained: political cooperation, the fruit of the endeavours of like-minded diplomats having the same profile, the same attitude in life, is now emerging as a useful venture, albeit of limited scope.

The national governments have developed it since 1970, having appreciated the point that joint action on the world scene can expect to make more of an impact than an individual initiative. They may also see it as a useful means of protecting their interests in certain situations; for instance, the common "balanced" position taken up by the Nine after the October 1973 war no doubt saved one of the countries involved, The Netherlands, from the worst rigours of the oil embargo. Given that country's resolutely pro-Israeli stance—dictated to it by public opinion—it is reasonable to suppose that the Arab world might have taken a tougher line against it had Holland been isolated.

The great weakness of political cooperation lies in the fact that it is voluntary. Governments are free to toe the line when they consider it necessary, but also to reject it whenever they consider that their best interests can be served by standing aloof. This reaction is still not uncommon, as witness the ragged order in which the MPLA was recognized as the legal government of Angola, or indeed the disunited pattern of voting in the United Nations.

In short, political cooperation only comes into play when the usefulness of joint action is self-evident to all and even then it only gives patchy results. Let us take a closer look at what has been achieved on each of the major issues with which the Nine have concerned themselves.

East-West relations and the CSCE (Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe). This is the main area for political cooperation, where mutual understanding functions most effectively and where the Community has given the most convincing account of itself. This is hardly surprising since Europe provides the main scenario for détente and all EEC countries are directly concerned. The importance attributed by the Nine to the conference and their shared conception of détente, coupled with the lack of interest shown by the United States for this exercise, have enabled them to play a leading role in Geneva and then in Helsinki.

The Helsinki final act, and the "third basket", may be regarded as being a Community product. It was written in the form in which it appeared because the Nine were able to work together from beginning to end as an operational unit, carrying with them the other countries of the West, that is the neutrals and the United States as well.

The preparations for the Belgrade conference have confirmed agreement between the EEC members. The agenda for this conference was drawn up on the basis of an EEC document. Despite the initial burst of enthusiasm displayed by the Carter Administration on human rights, it is a fair bet that it will be the Nine, with their moderate approach, who will set the tone when the time comes for drawing up the communiqué, which will deliver judgment on the implementation of the Helsinki act, point to the new efforts to be made in the future and perhaps fix the date for the next conference.

The Middle East. Here, the results of the EEC's activities are less convincing. The declarations approved by the Nine in November, 1973, and July of this year have had no effect in the field. Given the total absence of political integration, the Nine have no real power and purely verbal interventions will earn them no real influence. In fact, the usefulness of these initiatives is to be found not in external relations, but in terms of cohesion between member states within the EEC.

In this connection, it is not insignificant that the Nine, far from slavishly following the United States lead but sometimes actually showing the way (the European Council's declaration of July, 1977, was ready several weeks before the United States took up a similar position), have managed, from 1973 to 1977, to define a specific common position. Political cooperation can claim the considerable achievement of moderating extreme positions. Without it, there would probably have been more explicit evidence of pro-Arab leanings from Paris and, on the other side of the coin, more open expression of pro-Israeli sympathy in The Hague.

Africa. This continent offers new scope for political cooperation and the opportunity for common action here arises as a result of external intervention—by the Soviet Union. The Nine have much common ground in their assessment of the situation in Southern Africa. They abhor apartheid, but are even more united in their fear, which they share with the Americans, that Pretoria's stubbornness, if they themselves do not resist it, will throw the African liberation movements and the African governments supporting them into the arms of the Russians, whom they will see as their only support.

However, when analysis is left behind and it becomes a question of reacting to situations and attempting to formulate a common course of action, their united front crumbles. This is hardly surprising, since their interests are so different. Although barely started, the history of the EEC's collective relations with South Africa illustrates how difficult it is to take positive action. In July, 1977, foreign ministers were inveighing against South African racism and juggling with the various forms of pressure which could be applied.

At the ministers' next meeting a fortnight later, the tone had changed to one of remarkable timidity. Business interests had had their say and the governments had taken fright. The return from the holidays saw another about-face, this time after protests from black Africa. Hence the approval of the code of conduct to be observed by EEC companies operating in South Africa, but it is difficult to envisage any further substantial step forward in the near future.

The United Kingdom, France and West Germany, which have considerable economic interests in South Africa, are advocating prudence. Moreover, the EEC states which have seats on the security council are pointing out that the Vorster Government's cooperation is essential if the Rhodesian and Namibian situations are to be resolved peacefully.

East-West détente, the Middle East and Africa, are the three great issues on which political cooperation has been deployed, but any assessment of its value would be incomplete if it did not take account of the bitter defeat suffered over Cyprus and the disappointing results of the European-Arab dialogue.

In Cyprus, a country associated with the EEC and the subject of a major conflict between two other associated countries, Greece and Turkey, the United Kingdom, and by extension the Nine, had specific responsibilities. They ducked these responsibilities, leaving the way clear for the Americans and the chaos that ensued.

The misadventures of the European-Arab dialogue arise out of a misunderstanding for which the two sides must bear their share of blame. Whereas the Community countries are keen to place the accent on economic cooperation, those of the Arab League, unprepared for this type of collective venture, are exclusively concerned with their dispute with Israel. This means that despite efforts at conciliation, many of which have come from the Nine, the game has been lost before it starts.

Regular contact between the diplomats of the Nine no doubt serves a useful purpose. It has helped to familiarize them with the European dimension of problems. However, a start has scarcely been made. Political cooperation will remain as light and fragile as a bubble until, and unless it is given support by a Community which is moving forward, a prospect about which one cannot yet be very optimistic.

Philippe Lemaitre

Israel: outpost or bridge?

Commerce best guarantor of lasting peace

A man takes a pistol from his jacket and hands it to Porter Schwarz at the reception desk in the Accadia Hotel, which stands in Herzlia-on-Sea, the most select part of Tel Aviv. Yekutiel Xiel Federmann has just come from the south of the country where he has been on business: a dangerous criminal has escaped, and Mr Federmann wants to be ready in case their paths crossed.

Xiel Federmann always goes armed. His aims are peace, the inviolability of Israel's frontiers and his business concerns. Born in 1915 in Chemnitz, he has the heart of a mongoose and the delivery of a machine-gun; he bubbles over with ideas, which he expounds with eager gesticulations. His staff have their hands full restraining his enthusiasm. Mr Federmann owns the Dan Hotel Corporation, which has luxury properties in Herzlia (Accadia), Caesarea (Golf Hotel), Tel Aviv (Dan Hotel) and Haifa (Dan Carmel). The Federmann family lives in a penthouse on top of the Dan Carmel.

Xiel Federmann runs a pvc factory, is involved in irrigation and produces building materials—he also owns 50 per cent of a large manufacturer in Europe. He grows oranges near Tel Aviv, where he made the first oil and natural gas strikes in Israel in 1955. With the Rothschild-Edmond Geneva-Paris group, he built the first pipeline from Elat to Haifa. The turnover of Mr Federmann's businesses is about £11,000m.

His activities are not confined to Israel. In Africa the name Federmann is associated with government housing projects in Gabon, Nigeria, Ghana, Sierra Leone and the Congo. The Israeli Government supplies very practical aid in the form of loans by American and Swiss banks of up to 50 per cent of the building costs of these houses.

Mr Federmann will never tire of extending his interests. At the moment he is involved in a joint venture with an international group in precision and optical engineering. This is intended to benefit Israel in a very specific way: Mr Federmann wants to produce optical and precision instruments—needed by the Armed Forces—himself. "Our country is ringed by fire and steel", Federmann says, "we have to keep one step ahead in this field too".

Business and politics are for Mr Federmann two ways of saying the same thing. This is why he built up contacts with European investment corporations, which supplied DM 24m for new oil and gas prospecting. In two years' time the second oil strike at Ashdod should produce two million tons of oil on Israel's territory. At present Israel still relies on supplies from Iran for its annual requirement of seven million tons.

Yekutiel Xiel Federmann (Xiel is a Yiddish variant of Xavier) became Israel's most important businessman quite by chance. His qualifications for this title are, however, scarcely accidental. Before the state of Israel was founded on November 29, 1949, Mr Federmann was already organizing illegal incursions into Palestine in March 1940. He and his wife arrived there from England by troopship from Marseilles, because the British authorities refused to form a Jewish brigade to fight Hitler. In Palestine he was soon working for the Haganah, the secret service. He flew a courier service, and made many contacts in this capacity.

It was in this way that he met a high-ranking British officer at the time that British troops were making a precautionary withdrawal from Alexandria to Haifa. The British problem was the shortage of supplies, shoes, socks and uniforms. Xiel Federmann, member of the Haganah and always on the move, was the man to help. He found firms to produce uniforms, and supply shoes and socks for the British soldiers. Mr Federmann established a



depot for these rare commodities, and this was his business training.

How does Israel's most important businessman see his country's relationship with Europe? Yekutiel Xiel Federmann's reply poured out in a torrent: "Israel thought is European. Israel is a part of Europe in the Middle East. Israel's dream is a liberal democracy."

"Our goal is our recognition of our Arab neighbours. We are contributing to Europe's strength here, because the Mediterranean has become an important Russian sphere of influence, with states like Libya not merely posing a threat to the African continent, but offering a home for Russian submarines, air-bases and radar stations. The counterpoise has to be an Israeli-Arab front. This is why peace between Israel and its Arab neighbours is the burning question of the hour."

Mr Federmann openly admits that a politician cannot speak with the freedom that he can as a businessman. But what he believes is, he feels, also the opinion of Israel's politicians. He sums up his political view of Europe in a sentence: "The union of a free Europe with a free Middle East (which presupposes peace between Israel and the Arab States) would ensure the safety of African raw materials and the Middle East oil from a Russian attack."

He is prepared to be more specific. "It is quite conceivable that in the event of armed conflict between

Russia, Europe and America, brought on by Russian aggression, Israel would be included in Nato's military calculations and the state of war between Israel and the Arab states would cease overnight."

"Israel is closer than Europe to the Arab oil supplies in the Middle East. Israel's military might is probably second to West Germany's. No responsible political Nato command could—or should—overlook this. If war broke out between the Warsaw Pact countries and the European democracies, the Israeli forces would be more likely to fight alongside Iranian and Saudi Arabian forces—perhaps even Egyptian troops—than others."

But the combination of businessman and politically-committed Israeli is never far from the surface. He is certain that commerce must bring about and preserve peace in the Middle East. "We have to extend our trading relations into Arab countries. Production and trade must flourish everywhere. This would lead to social peace and political calm." And because he is a great practical man, quick to make decisions, he would rather see his dream fulfilled now than in the distant future: an Israel-Arab nuclear power station on the frontier. "This would not just be a focus for energy", Mr Federmann claims, "but a focus for peace on our border."

Hans Baumann

Trade between Europe and Israel in 1976

Israel's exports to the world	+24.6 per cent to \$2,004m
Exports to Europe	+22.5 per cent to \$887m
Imports from the world	-1.2 per cent to \$4,100m
Imports from European Community	+1.4 per cent to \$1,770m

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UP WITH STERLING

The transformation of the country's financial position in the past year has been extraordinary. Last Friday was the anniversary of the day when the pound stood lower against the dollar than at any time in its history. Yesterday the Treasury told the Bank of England to give up for the time being the attempt to stop the pound rising. Last October the Bank of England's minimum lending rate was pushed in panic to a level of 15 per cent. Today it is at 5 per cent and might be even lower, but for the strong efforts of the authorities to steady the rate of decline. Again and again in 1976 the pound appeared to be in free fall. During 1977 neither falling interest rates nor the relatively high rates of domestic inflation have served to stop the torrents of money pouring into the country.

Such a volatile change in the financial situation, heavily influenced by the rising flow of North Sea oil, is of course not matched by changes in the real economy. Indeed while no one would exchange the complex of economic policy problems we now face for those which we faced last year, the continued strength of the pound must be a source of concern for exporting

industry. The argument about the appropriate policy for the pound's exchange rate over the next year or so is finely balanced. This balance is reflected in differences of opinion between politicians of both the main parties, between economists and between officials, both in the Treasury and the Bank of England.

As we said at the time of the Chancellor's economic statement last week, events had combined to place the Government in a position where it only had three options. It could ease the upward pressure on the pound by a substantial reduction in outward exchange controls. It could continue to sell pounds to hold the rate steady, thus creating increasing problems for the control of our domestic money supply. Or it could allow the exchange rate to rise. We said then that the right solution, since continued monetary restraint is essential to the fight against inflation, was probably to combine some substantial relaxation of exchange controls with some revaluation of the pound. It is a pity that the Government has only adopted one element of that policy.

The argument in favour of allowing some appreciation in

the exchange rate is twofold. First, as the history of the past ten years has shown, the foreign exchanges have become so fluid and unstable that market forces cannot be resisted indefinitely. Secondly, an appreciating exchange rate is the basis for an increase in the real standard of living of the British people, as a consequence of the good fortune of North Sea oil. The only reason why a higher rate for the pound causes difficulty is the very low productivity of British manufacturing industry in general. It cannot be right to use an artificially low exchange rate for ever as a protection for inefficiency.

The argument in favour of a substantial easing of outward exchange controls is that as a country we should use the windfall gains of our present financial position to acquire income earning assets abroad. If, at the same time, such a policy reduces the upward pressure on the pound that is a by-product which will assist British industry as it tries to improve the general level of its competitiveness. If the upward pressure on sterling persists strongly, the Government must reconsider its decision not to proceed with a substantial relaxation of exchange controls.

CHINA REIMPOSES DISCIPLINE

Since early in the year there have been reports of executions in China. This is certainly evidence enough of the troubled state to which the country had been reduced in the decade that ended with the death of Mao Tse-tung in 1976. As to the number, no information is easily available to foreign correspondents. The facts are gathered from the lists of names posted up in cities where trials have been held—so many sentenced to immediate execution, so many to suspended death sentences, so many to prison terms. Only those foreign visitors able to read the notices—of whom there are many more than students of Chinese from abroad scattered in the major cities—can learn what has happened. From such sources it would seem that many thousands may have been tried but that the number executed may not involve more than some hundreds.

This is the sharp end of the campaign to restore "great order" in the land. It has two aspects. One is the settlement with the radicals, those losers in the political battle who of whom may believe that the battle is not yet won by those now in charge in Peking. The other aspect is the restoration of discipline in a China fractured by disorder, where for years the ambitions of the young have been free to run riot, where such a younger generation has been extruded from the political competition to become an underground sub-culture

forced to live by its wits. Bad elements, criminals, counter-revolutionaries—who can detect the faults behind the jargon or easily distinguish between everyday crime and the paths of political violence? As always in China the information is too sparse to compute the degree of harshness or the amount of injustice that may accompany such a campaign.

There are, however, clear Maoist standards to which the radicals should be subject. "Struggle by persuasion" has always been permissible in China though it has never been without its threat of violence or at least very strong social pressures. What was not permissible was "struggle by force". But once started in the cultural revolution—very bad in some areas, not at all in others—it has never really died down. In every institution the political factions survived the cultural revolution to confront each other. One of the worst cases was the railways where politically motivated strikes had gone so far that Peking's Daily early this year thought it would take three to five years to restore orderly working. So in the last laps of the political race in 1976 there was violence in plenty. At least two provincial leaders suffered unexplained deaths now attributed to the gang of four. At lower levels murder and kidnapping helped in seizures of power. The arrests made many months ago in such cases are now ending in sentences.

The hardest question to answer is how these years of dis-

order have affected the youngest generation in China, those now in their twenties or early thirties. The disbanded red guards, the millions disappointed of higher education and a career and sent to the countryside—how many are now cynical disbelievers? And at the youngest end of this generation how many more rallied to revolutionary slogans and the glorification of Mao Tse-tung only to be equally disillusioned last year? This is where the discipline is found, where the "drop-outs" of the Chinese system have to fend for themselves, where the "corruption, capitalist tendencies, bourgeois factionalism, counter-revolutionary activities" spread and are now to be brought to a halt by stiff discipline and order.

Through so much opaque jargon it is hard to discern to what resorts this generation has been brought by the political turnabouts of the past ten years in China. That order is the objective of the present campaign need not be doubted. Nor the need for it. If the present leadership cannot command the loyalty among the Chinese masses that the leaders of the fifties did that may make their task the harder. The one thing that they have on their side is that however tarnished the jargon that divides good and bad the Chinese have a strong preference for order. When Mr Teng Hsiao-ping says the country must get back to the facts many millions will back him in silent approval.

Private prosecutions

From Mr Raymond Blackburn
Sir, I regret that Mr Bennion has thought fit to attack me (letter October 21). Where there is widespread illegality involving social evils the rule of law is undermined and the cause of freedom which it protects and serves is imperilled. Thus in my first main case against the then Commissioner of Police Lord Justice Salmon, now Lord Salmon, said of the gaming laws: "Regrettably they have not been properly enforced... an immense gaming industry, particularly in London, has been allowed to grow up during the last seven years. This has inevitably brought grave social evils in its train—protection rackets, crimes of violence and widespread corruption." (1968 2 W.L.R.) para 905. The same thing happened with porn.

The right of private prosecution is a long established part of the law. It is not weakened by the very high legal costs involved—so much so that one wonders why attention is paid to it. But it is part of the essential freedoms of the citizen. I do not criticise Mr Bennion because his actions delighted the supporters of a repressive regime. I assumed his loyalty to be to the rule of law. That is what matters. If Parliament launches rackets I should accept its decision but I do not believe that in the long run the existing trend in that direction will be successful. Yours faithfully,
RAYMOND BLACKBURN,
30 Homfield Road,
Chiswick, W4.

Stopping hijackers

From Mr C. E. C. Dickens
Sir, The eminent Professor (letters, October 28) who so obviously enjoyed demolishing my suggestion (letters, October 22) that hijacking is a fair bet that every word said will be carefully weighed: therefore when I said "sleep" I did not mean "anaesthesia". Indeed there would have been no point in writing if that had been what I meant because of course one knows there are such cases and even lawyers have some idea of the dangers involved in anaesthesia. Having said that, I will admit to using the word "sleep" euphemistically. The cases I had in mind were the so-called nerve gases more likely to emanate from one of our defence establishments than from a house of medicine, however distinguished. If there is one, for instance, which makes people "sleepily happy" it might do very well.

In another respect, however, the Professor does not disappoint; it was inevitable that the argument about the present, the old and the frail would be trotted out. It always is. Perhaps I may suggest another question for his students: "Discuss the effect on a present heart or a frail old man with a heart condition who has been subjected to the explosion of non-fracturing band grenades which stun and confuse for six seconds, followed by the eruption of a squad of commandos who have the same time in which to shoot the terrorist before their eyes (probably missing some of them by inches in the process)." We must not forget that this is war (the opposition certainly sees it as such) and risks have to be taken. But in war if one side develops an effective defence it does not make sense for the enemy to decide to cease attacking that particular target.

I suggest that just one or two hijackings which failed, totally and without drama (with everyone concerned laughing) would rapidly end this particular form of terror and allow the present and the frail to go on living if they feel they should in their condition.

Not many attempts are made these days to steal the Crown Jewels presumably because failure has the reputation of being inevitable. There are perhaps many routes to

Yours faithfully,
CLAUDE DICKENS,
Fern House,
Whitchurch Road,
Cublington,
Near Leighton Buzzard,
Bedfordshire,
October 28.

Lone lived Fellows

From Mr Henry G. Button
Sir, Since the publication on October 8 of my article about old fellows a friend in Oxford has drawn my attention to the remarkable error of W. N. Stacker, whose obituary appears in *The Times* of August 2, 1949.
Stacker died in 1949 at the age of 98. He had been a Fellow of Brasenose for some 72 years, having won an Open Fellowship in 1877. He was the last surviving life-fellow of an Oxford college.
Yours faithfully,
HENRY G. BUTTON,
7 Ashurst Court,
Grange Road,
Cambridge,
October 20.

Revaluation of sterling

From Lord Kaldor, FBA
Sir, If Sir Keith Joseph is so anxious to let the pound rise, I for one would have no objection, provided only that it is combined with the well proven Conservative policy of industrial protection. Let us reintroduce the 1932 Act, as interpreted by the Import Duties Advisory Committee, and have a general *ad valorem* duty on all manufactures of 20 per cent, with an additional 10 per cent on sensitive items like chemicals, steel, cars and other engineering products.

This would kill three birds with one stone. Through the fall in sterling prices of food and industrial materials it would stop inflation, and might even bring about a falling cost of living index. It would create a tremendous investment boom and thereby regenerate and, in the longer run, enhance the competitive power of British industry. And it would create full employment in a matter of a few years.

Let us not forget that in the 23 years, 1932-1955, when imports of manufactures were kept down by import duties and later by licence restrictions, British manufacturing production increased at an average exponential rate of 4 per cent a year—despite the dislocations caused by World War II. This was a much higher growth rate than Britain ever achieved for any length of time either before or since.

Yours faithfully,
NICHOLAS KALDOR,
King's College,
Cambridge,
October 29.

Questioning Mr Thorpe

From Mr Bryn Marwood
Sir, You are perplexed by modern morality which finds homosexuality acceptable, yet destroys a leading politician on the basis of the allegation of a past homosexual affair, and you support your argument by morally equating adultery and homosexuality.

Modern morality finds adultery psychologically normal but morally wrong, whereas homosexuality is judged to be psychologically abnormal but morally right (on the basis that if a man has this psychosis, his indulgence of it is acceptable).

Personal morality is not the main criterion of judgment in this case. It is more a matter of trust. You would not trust an adulterer with your life, but you might with your cheque book. An Englishman does not know how far to trust a homosexual, and would prefer not to trust him with his vote.

Although this may explain the interest in the Thorpe affair, it does not justify the continuing pursuit of Mr Thorpe by the press, in my view, morally unjustifiable. I would prefer to give him the benefit of the doubt and forget about it.
Yours faithfully,
BRYAN MORWOOD,
1 Dunstable Court,
St Johns Park, SE3,
October 29.

From Mr Humphry Berkeley
Sir, Until the last few days, the accusations and innuendoes which have been levelled against Mr Jeremy Thorpe have been specific, in so far as they have been concerned with his relationship with one person. His press conference was called to answer these charges. I cannot imagine that anybody (members of the Royal Family, Church leaders, past or present or possible future prime ministers) would willingly answer, truthfully, and in public, questions about his or her sexual experiences or fantasies from adolescence to middle age.

It is a reflection on our puritan and Godless society that a press conference rather than the confessional should be regarded as the proper place for such disclosures. Yours faithfully,
HUMPHRY BERKELEY,
Three Pages Yard,
Church Street,
Chiswick, W4.

From Mr James Collier
Sir, In your Friday coverage of the press conference given by Mr Jeremy Thorpe, there was mention of the fact that I had given him the impression of there being more than an affectionate relationship between Mr Thorpe and Mr Scott. In spite of intense pressure from the press, I feel I must report that I have no proof of a homosexual relationship between them.

This is another case of certain sections of the press implying things by innuendo, and I am most surprised that you should repeat it. I feel I must report that I have no proof of a homosexual relationship between Mr Thorpe and me, and the record should be corrected. Yours faithfully,
JAMES COLLIER,
Bibury Court Hotel,
Bibury,
Near Cirencester,
Gloucestershire.

Secret balloting

From Mr J. P. Hudson
Sir, Mr Derek Robinson, joint shop stewards' convenor at Leyland Cars' Longbridge factory, is in noble and indeed dual company when he declares that "we want to stick to our traditional way of voting".

Rather over a century ago the Duke of Argyll wrote to Gladstone opposing the secret ballot on the grounds that "it might succeed in counteracting some of the most legitimate influence exercised by one class over another". Lord Palmerston, speaking at Tiverton, was more forthright: "to go sooting to the ballot box, and putting in a piece of paper, looking round to see that no one could read it, is... unworthy of the character of straightforward and honest Englishmen".

Yours faithfully,
J. P. HUDSON,
56 Northchurch Road,
Islington, N1.

Imposing sanctions on South Africa

From Professor A. R. C. de Crespigny

Sir, If I may speak bluntly, your distinguished newspaper's approach to the problems of South African politics is far from satisfactory, since it appears to neglect basic facts necessary for any adequate appraisal. Let me list a few of them.

1. The effect of foreign pressure has been to strengthen the position of the National Party and the more powerful this party will become. Indeed, a not improbable consequence of intensified pressure will be the establishment of a one party regime.

2. The best way to seek to influence South African policy is through carrots rather than sticks, incentives rather than constraints. The coercion of Nationalist Afrikaners is virtually certain to have an effect the reverse of that intended.

3. The Afrikaners are right in supposing that Black rule would be incompatible with the adequate protection of many of their vital cultural and material interests. And if this is so, who can reasonably deny them a right to protect these interests and an unlimited right to do anything they please but a right nevertheless?

4. The real choice before South Africa lies not between "white minority rule" and "Black majority rule" but between one form of minority rule or another. "Black majority rule" in any substantial sense is, in the Republic, a spurious alternative.

Yours faithfully,
A. R. C. DE CRESPIGNY,
Professor of Political Science,
University of Cape Town,
8 Phillimore Gardens, W8.

From Mr Edward Millard

Sir, Dr Owen is unlikely to press for a ban on trade with South Africa because of the repercussions this would have on employment in Britain and no doubt his Cabinet colleagues have reminded him of this. The consequences of such a short term thinking are to prejudice our chances for future success. Other African states who will be prosperous and who could become large trading partners with Britain long after the inevitable demise of the apartheid system in South Africa.

The fact is that this attitude by the British Government is defensible neither on moral nor economic nor political grounds. Several important African leaders have recognized publicly the reluctance of Britain to actually take meaningful action in support of its utterances against apartheid, and this is one part of the reason for the increase in standing which the Soviet Union has gained in Africa over the last decade. The British Government is in a weak position because it has failed to pave the way for radical action.

Invitation to Mr Begin

From Mr Said Hammami
Sir, Sixty years ago, without warning or even consulting the Palestinians, the British Government published the Balfour Declaration. With that document, the British lit the fuse for the Palestine tragedy.

Thirty years ago, Menachem Begin, then leader of the underground Irgun Zvai Leumi, was working hard to precipitate the final evacuation of Palestine, which the Palestinians were dispossessed of our ancestral homeland.

In a few weeks' time that same Begin is to visit this country as the guest of a different British Government. I know it is different because its leader, Prime Minister James Callaghan, in a speech reassuring his Jewish audience about Britain's concern for the security of Israel, said on October 23: "But we have always been concerned too about the appalling human problems of those who lost their homes and their livelihood during various stages of the Arab-Israeli dispute. Unless we accept and understand their sense of grievance, we will never achieve a peace that is acceptable or lasting."

May I say, as a Palestinian, how warmly I welcome Mr Callaghan's remarks. May I add that an acceptable and lasting peace could be achieved through a complete Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and the

Religion and the young

From Bishop F. H. West
Sir, Mrs Shirley Williams, according to your report (October 26) on her latest reflections on religious education in maintained schools, has noticed what she describes as "a recrudescence of fundamentalism of one sort or another" among the young. So have I. In my visits to schools in Somerset and part of Avon I have been noting a great change in the attitude of young people towards religion over the past five years.

In the 1960s it was difficult to get the average sixth form to take the subject seriously. When confronted with a class I detected a certain amount of supercilious amusement in their attitude towards me. In their eyes I personally, and the faith I represented, seemed to lack credibility. If there were believing Christians among them, they kept very silent.

Not so today. In one corner of the room there is usually a minority of highly articulate young Christians, significantly and regrettably, to my mind, grouped together, whose enthusiasm often reduces the rest to silence.

I can recall one occasion when a distinguished theologian and I jointly chaired a debate on Religion and Science. All the questions addressed to us were on the ethical and religious implications of technological advance. We can all draw our own conclusions from the change that has taken place.

At any rate, RE teachers do not have to create interest in religion. It is arising with a tendency towards all kinds of fancy related to some of them harmful. The situation requires firm sympathetic, informal and wise handling.

But the point I really want to make is that if ever RE were to

It should for a long time now have been condemning and exposing apartheid to the British people, explaining how British trade, and the involvement of British companies in South Africa, is boosting their economy to the further detriment of the black population; and it should have been arranging, in consultation with trade unions, schemes to cushion the adverse effect on employment in Britain.

If the Government does not prepare its case, it will of course find people less willing to accept, when their own jobs and family responsibilities are at stake. But to so ignoring the means at its disposal to weaken the South African regime economically and to isolate it politically is to run away from another harsh fact of the real world: "to use Dr Owen's words, namely that the South African Government wants to oppress and exploit its black population and will continue to do so for as long as it can."

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD MILLARD,
125 Grove Road,
Rayleigh, Essex.

From Wing Commander S. John Peskett
Sir, Now that we are going seriously into the sanctions business and telling the Rhodesians and South Africans how to run their countries, could we not extend our activities to a few other governments who might be said to qualify for our reproaches?

Our record on sanctions is not very good, though we were at one time fairly good at repression. I am old enough to remember that our sanctions at the time of Mussolini's invasion of Abyssinia were rather half-hearted but we did quite well on repression in India. However, since we are determined to go on this crusade, why do we not start with sanctions on all countries which harbour hijackers? This form of terrorism is a threat to the whole world.

I find myself at a loss to understand the vehemence we bring to proposed sanctions against Rhodesia and South Africa when we ignored what went on in Cambodia. We also ignore Uganda and other African states which are far greater centres of terror and repression than Rhodesia and South Africa. Then there are the various Communist countries whose governments meet with our disapproval. I see no sign of sanctions there.

By all means let us do what we can to ameliorate the lot of the black man in Africa, but we are not going to do it by the destruction of the economy of two prosperous countries. The only result in ruin for whites and blacks. I am, Sir, yours faithfully,
S. JOHN PESKETT,
Westwell House,
Tenterden,
Kent.

establishment of a Palestinian state on the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. In the eyes of the world community such a solution is just and possible especially since President Carter spoke of the need to establish a Palestinian homeland. And it was expressed again by Mr Callaghan in the speech from which I have quoted in which he went on to say: "There is no prospect of a lasting peace coming about in the Middle East unless the Palestinian problem is solved. We believe the way to solve it is by setting up a homeland of some kind for the Palestinian Arabs."

Of course we Palestinians have bitter feeling about the British Government's decision to invite Mr Begin to visit this country. We fear that this official invitation will encourage those in Israel who share Mr Begin's determination not to withdraw from the Palestinian territory nor to recognise the Palestinian people's rights. I hope Mr Callaghan's courage and sense of justice will impress on Mr Begin the need for a settlement along the line already indicated by Britain's Prime Minister.

Sincerely yours,
S. HAMMAMI,
Representative of the
Palestine Liberation Organization,
London Office,
52 Green Street, W1,
October 27.

Protecting North Devon

From Mr F. J. Brayley
Sir, I have farmed this land for 57 years. The Transport Minister should let me take him to the steep hillside below my thatched farmhouse to look down the narrow valley where his huge road will go, if rumour hereabouts is true. He will see B21 already climbing out of that valley.

I will take him across Mazard Tree Lane to another of my fields above where his road will cut into the hillside from Five Crossways. He will see the traffic moving on A361.

Then we will climb to my top field west of the church and the lane along the ridge cross and lean on my neighbour's gate. He will see the traffic on A373 on the far hill.

Three main roads, yet he wants to squeeze another in, and wherever it goes there is hardly a spot where it won't be seen, making our hill country like the outskirts of a city. I say nothing about the loss of land for sheep and crops.

Yours faithfully,
F. J. BRAYLEY,
Peachey Farm,
Ash Molt,
South Devon,
North Devon.

Hanging Turner's paintings

From the President of the Royal Acadamy

Sir, I hesitate to prolong still further the time for the controversy over Somerset House but wish, if I may, to comment briefly upon the Tate Trustees' press statement which was the subject of your leading article (October 28).

It is splendid to hear at last the squeak of rusty hinges from Millbank, to learn that shortly there will be a series of Turner watercolours on show (as in 1928) and that in the future if funds permit—(ah those familiar reservations!)—some of the hundred or more Turner oils now in store may one day be placed on view in the temporarily converted wards of the disused Military Hospital nearby.

But the stone in this particular fruit is hard indeed. It is still apparently the opinion of the Trustees and their advisers that, despite the recent improvements, either already achieved or offered by DOE, the physical conditions in the recently restored rooms of Somerset House fail to reach the standards necessary in their view for the safe and proper display of Turner's work—and by implication therefore of any other first class painting.

If this rigorous policy (luckily not shared by the generous lenders to the recent London/Thames Exhibition) is seriously to be pursued, or imitated by other lenders, it is dispiriting news not only for Somerset House, whose beautifully restored rooms are doomed to be left either bare or a background to the second rate, not only for us at Burlington House—where we still open the windows when it is hot (as they do at Windsor Castle) and close them when it is cold—but for scores of similarly old fashioned provincial museums and galleries who will presumably be denied the privilege of national loans unless they spend a fortune on experts, air conditioning and humidification.

If the original ideas of the Turner Society now seem perhaps over optimistic, the more modest proposals put forward in your columns (October 18) by Henry Moore, Lord Clark and others (and which Lady Birk said DOE would facilitate) for "rotating" an exhibition of Turner's oils and watercolours chosen from those now in store does not seem unreasonable. True it can be described as "dispersed". But dispersal to a place where these works can be seen rather than to a place where they cannot, is surely to be welcomed.

The top floor of Somerset House stands splendid, ready, and empty. It must not remain so.
Yours faithfully,
HUGH CASSON,
Royal Academy of Arts,
Piccadilly, W1,
October 31.

Mapping buried history

From Mrs E. V. W. Proudfoot

Sir, The current programme of re-organization of the Ordnance Survey is to result in further curtailment of the Archaeological Branch and its vital role in archaeological research in this country. Scotland will feel this additional withdrawal of services most keenly, since no other agency here undertakes this particular work, of locating, surveying, classifying, sites and publishing them on maps, while maintaining a supportive card index of new, known, visible and destroyed sites.

Maintenance of the card index is to be at secondary level, yet this card index, requiring frequent updating, holds a wealth of information, a basic tool for any archaeological research. All who have used the Ordnance Survey cards are impressed by the detail contained, both in respect of field investigations over the years and in respect of supportive documentary research.

The Basic Scale Field Programme, started in 1947 and due to be finished in 1980, is to be stopped only months from completion. Sites are to be noted on maps, by non-archaeological surveyors, only if they see them. Many sites visible and clear to the trained eye will simply pass unnoticed under this system. Already experimental changes in information gathering have proved unsuitable, since not all regions are either equipped or motivated to provide such information. The information flow must be to the regions from a strong central Scottish department.

At a time when our way of life is increasingly destructive of our archaeological environment, the Ordnance Survey must be strengthened, not reduced. As many sites as possible are not noted on maps, planners and developers cannot be expected to know of their existence. Such mapping is a national rather than a regional responsibility. There is therefore a strong case for maintaining and strengthening the Ordnance Survey Archaeological Branch for Scotland, in Edinburgh, since at present they alone have the facilities and trained personnel to continue such work recording. Yours faithfully,
EDWINA V. W. PROUDFOOT,
Westgate,
Wardlaw Gardens,
St Andrews,
Fife,
October 26.

Napoleon's last doctor

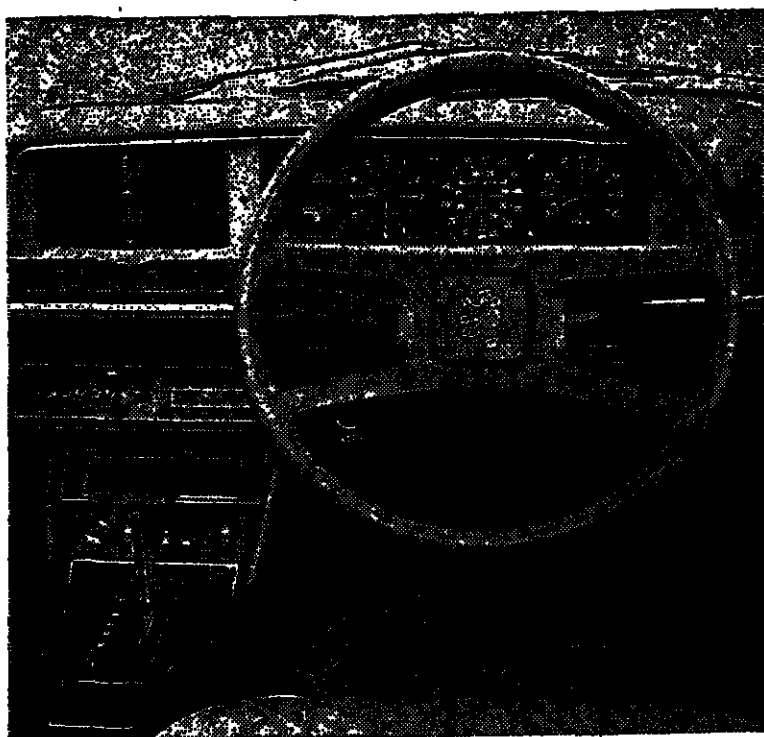
From Colonel E. W. Oxenford

Sir, In today's issue of *The Times* (October 27) on page 7 "Death notes on Napoleon sold in Paris". Dr Archibald Arnott is described as "RN". He was in fact surgeon of the XXth Regt who were at that time stationed in St Helena. He held all the classes of the Peninsular Medal for actions in which the XXth were engaged.

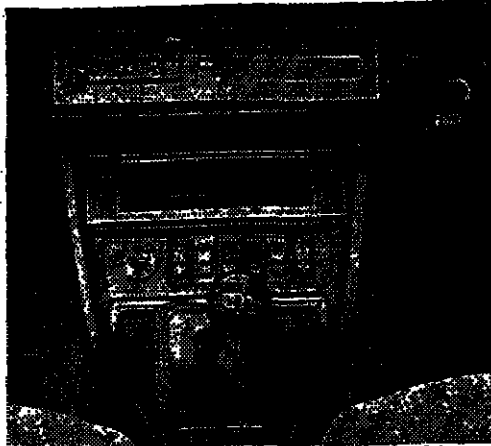
I will gladly supply details of this officer's service. I am, Sir, Your obedient servant,
E. W. OXENFORD,
Lieut-Col XXth The Lancashire Fusiliers (Retd),
Cool Bawn,
Thurleston,
Kingsbridge,
South Devon,
October 27.

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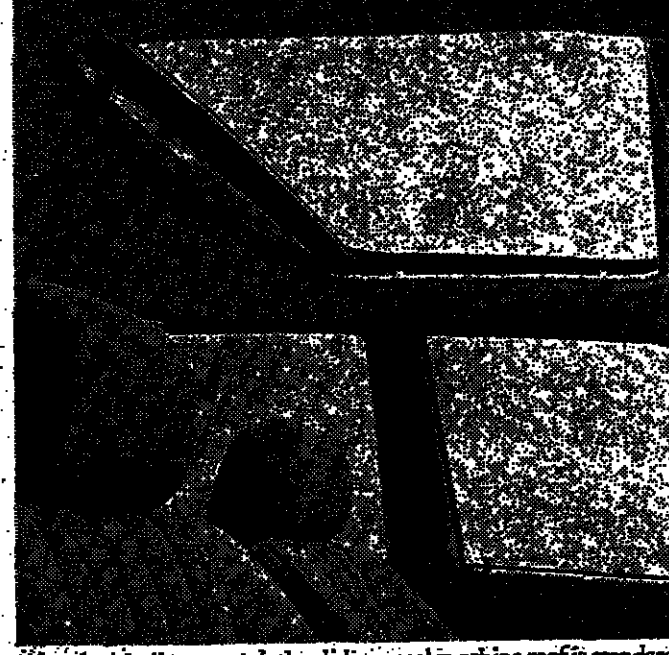
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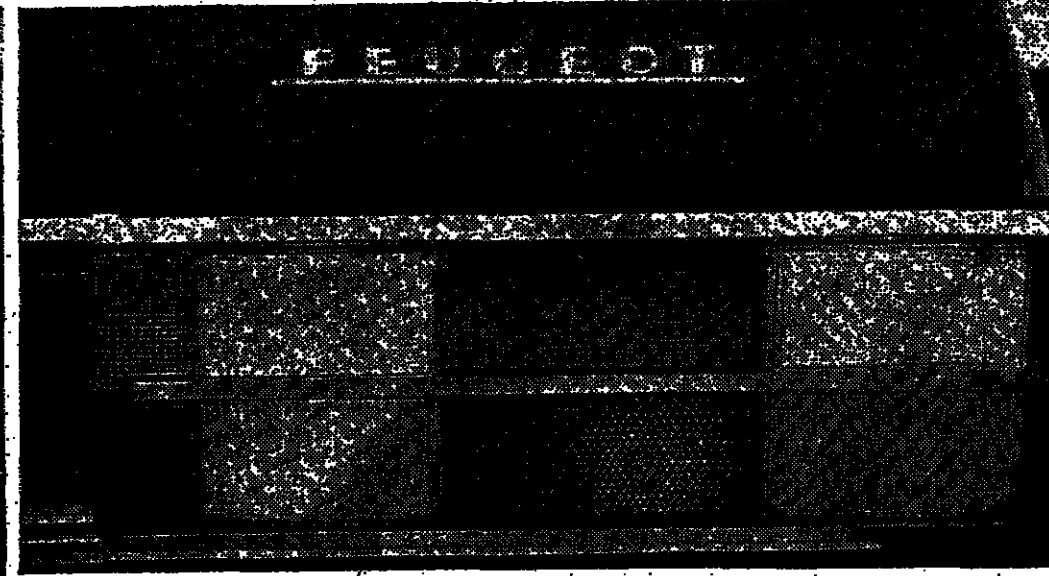
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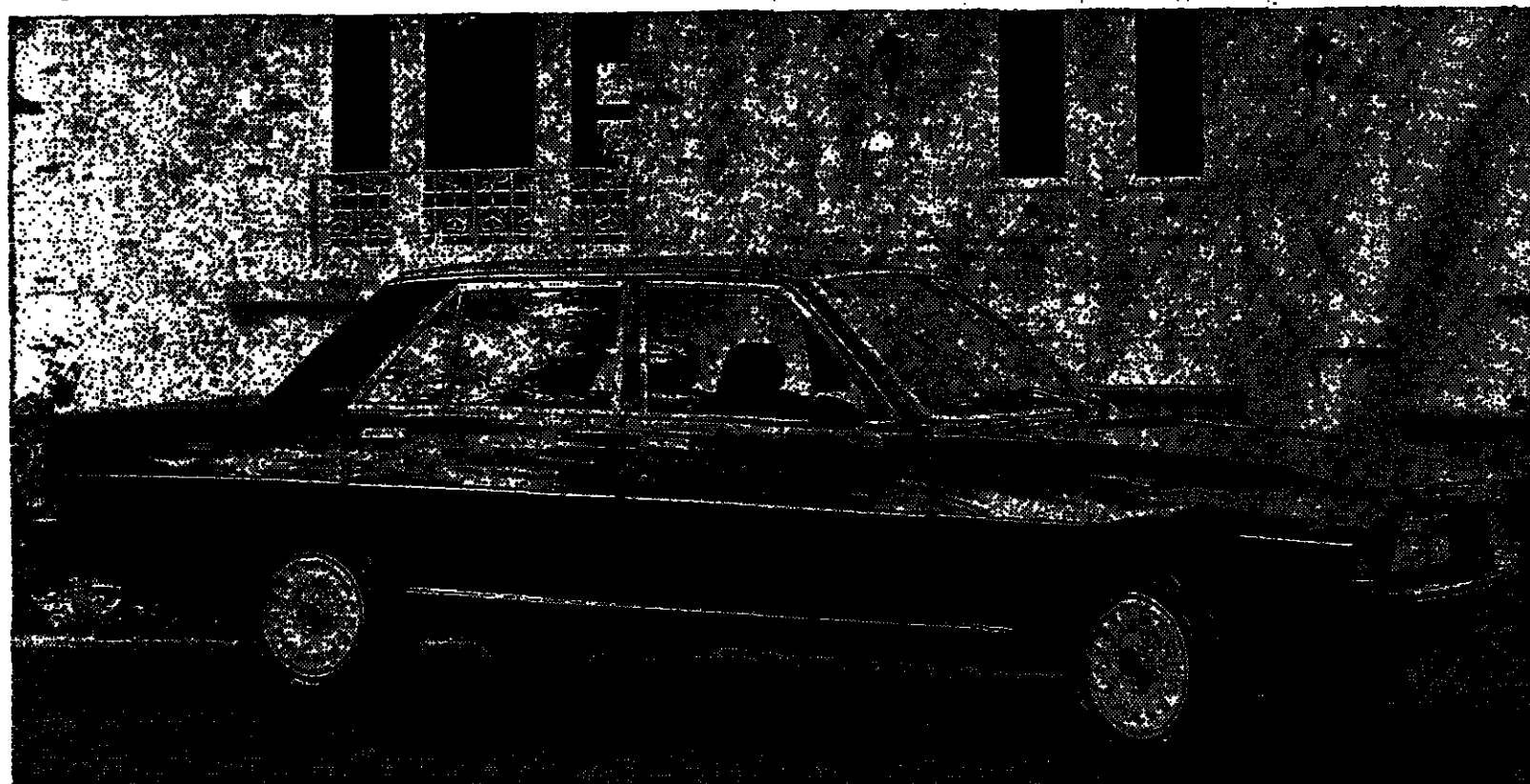
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